

Merry Christmas

INVENTORS COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

www.inventorscouncil.org

The Inventors Council is an independent, non-profit 501-c-3 corporation formed to help inventors pursue their dreams of bringing new and innovative products to market. Our goal is to help fellow inventors succeed in the most efficient and least costly manner by providing education and business networking.

Founded by Robert (Bob) Ross in 1995

We meet on the second Thursday of every month at:
Walli's Restaurant, 1341 S. Center Rd Burton, Michigan
Two blocks south of I-69 at Exit 139

As a non-profit, Our Meetings are Open to the Public
We appreciate a donation of \$5.00 at the Door

Volume 2018

Next Meeting Thursday, December 13, 2018 - 7:00 pm

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December Agenda:

- Report on Inventor Groups of America – connection information for Michael Weinstein at All Star
- Reminder of members to run for Board offices with voting in January
- Short meeting on next year's agenda
- Christmas dinner at Walli's

Upcoming Events:

- SBDC Business Workshops: www.sbdcmichigan.org
- MiQuest December Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- Santa Claus December 25th

November Minutes:

- Report on Inventor Groups of America
- "Advanced Communication and Sales Strategies" featuring Michael Jeffreys – Report by Lynne Soave
- Report on VetBiz Central Open House
- Flint New Tech networking
- Thumb Region Small Business Competition – 1st & 2nd place awards. Update by participants
- Zillion Solutions competition
- Podcast presentation – Lindsey Brooks wants your product Idea
 - I will have a handout outline and example of how to prepare your information
- Networking

Inventor Resources

Michigan Inventor Clubs

Grand Rapids Inventors Network
www.grinventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan
www.inventorscouncil.org

Jackson Inventors Network
www.jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center
www.mmic.us

Muskegon Inventors Network
www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit
www.inventoriamd.org

Lansing Inventors Network
www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork

National Affiliations

Inventor Group of America
www.inventleader.org

United Inventors Association of America
www.uiausa.org

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Invention Review Panel

For an objective evaluation and priceless feedback, present your invention ideas to an educated group of inventors, business owners, engineers, and authors. Our Panel will sign a non-disclosure agreement to guarantee your ideas are kept secret while we provide input you need to make decisions during the stages of getting your product to market.

We ask for a \$25.00 donation for non-members. The Panel meets at 6:00 pm prior to each meeting. You must e-mail our Panel Chairman Marty Sovis to request a Pre-evaluation form and return it at least one week prior to a meeting to schedule a time.

msovis@comcast.net

President's Note:

Another year comes to a close for the Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan. Started in 1995 by Bob Ross, our slogan originally was "keeping the minnows away from the sharks". How things have changed through the years. Where our original goal was to keep the novice inventor "minnow" from being scammed by the deceitful invention submission "sharks", now we seek to align the "minnows" with the successful sharks who know the invention process and can guide our members down the right stream. As our mission statement at the top of our newsletter states, we concentrate on providing inventor education and business networking for our members. A few of the many things we have seen this year:

- Our affiliation with the Inventor Groups of America. This organization comprised of group leaders and successful entrepreneurs in the invention process has given us solid connections to move your invention to a successful product. Most of the original members went to Washington D. C. this past spring and met with our congressmen to make them aware of the growing organization of individual inventors. Strength in numbers is the key to letting them know patent laws should benefit the individual American, not just the large corporations. Most advantageous of our affiliation with the IGA, however has been the connections we have received from organizations that directly work with inventors to market their idea.
- Our membership in the Michigan Inventors Coalition and involvement with our annual Expo in East Lansing has been a tremendous benefit to inventors who need to experience the networking with other successful inventors. This year's expo was a tremendous success as we merged with the Michigan State University Regional Economic Innovation who's goal is to work with vulnerable communities, turning them into economically-vibrant places, directly aligned with our goals.
- We have utilized several podcast presentations that have educated our members on steps in the invention process. From covering whether to manufacture or license, taking your invention to trade shows, and how to sell your product, members have received sound advice on how to proceed with their invention.
- Our speaker series ran a little short with a couple of cancellations, but we did have successful inventors come in and share their stories with us and a special presentation by DASI-Solutions showing how good CAD drawings and Solidworks can help an inventor develop their idea.
- We will continue to encourage our members to practice their "pitch" to our membership at large for critique and practice. I really think this is an excellent way to get excited about your invention. As a side benefit, I've seen it bond our members closer together.
- I will continue to supply contact information and correspondence to keep everyone up to speed on current patent law changes, education and training seminars, and invention expositions that can benefit members.
- Finally, as I frequently mention, as you become a success with your idea, share your strategies with other members.

Remember, have fun with your invention!