



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 7:00 pm
Mott Community College – Regional Technology Center
Room RTC - 1107

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

Volume #1 - 2020

Next Meeting: **Thursday, January 9 - 7:00 pm**

Venue: MCC Regional Technology Center

January Itinerary

- REMINDER: We now meet at Mott Community College Regional Technology Center Room RTC-1107
- Election of Officers: Elected last year for a two year term on the Board of Directors were: Mike Wiley, Patrick Donlon, and Marty Sovis. Three new members need to be elected for two year terms this year. Completing their two year terms are John Tracy, Dwayne Towns, and Ken Yee. All members in good standing are eligible to run for a Board position.
- Annual Dues collection
- Introductory Video series “Patently Good Ideas” by Jacob Ward
- Next month’s speaker and future speakers
- Who do we need on our “Circle of Trust”
- Networking

Upcoming Events:

- Factory Two January events - www.info@factorytwo.org
- MiQuest January Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- SBDC Business Workshops: www.sbdcmichigan.org
- UIA Inventors Spotlight at the PGA 2020 Merchandise Show – Orlando, FL. January 22-24 To submit a product
<https://www.submitmyinvention.com/submit/pga-inventorsspotlight>

- Report 3rd – 5th grade Young Sharks program
go.umflint.edu/YoungSharks
- Update on January venue
- December meeting - Christmas Dinner at Capital – submit names for Board and officer’s election
- Discussion on upcoming Speakers
 - (possibly revive our Speaker Series for the year)
 - MSBDC Exploring the Financial Side of your Invention – (Mary Kordyban)
- Handout on the GreatPlate and selling through QVC
- Networking

Michigan Inventor Clubs

- Grand Rapids Inventors Network
www.grinventors.com
- 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

Affiliations

- Inventor Groups of America
www.inventleader.org
- United Inventors Association of America
www.uiausa.org
- Michigan Inventors Coalition
www.michiganinventorscoalition.com

ICMM Officers & Directors

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Director: Mike Wiley 810-687-1900

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Director: Dwayne Towns

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Director: Patrick Donlon

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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.

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President's Note:

I have been monitoring Josh Malone and Randy Landreneau on their efforts to convince Congress that there is a major breakdown in patent legislation for the individual inventor. The biggest culprit is the Patent and Trademark Appeals Board who have the ability to cancel a patent that has already been issued. 84% of the 2,534 patents that have been fully reviewed by the Patent Trademark Appeals Board have been determined INVALID.

Randy and Josh have been successful in getting a Bill introduced in Congress, **H.R. 5478**, The Inventor Rights Act. What they need now is for inventors across America to contact their representatives and ask them to support or even co-sponsor the Bill so it will get passed. As you know, elected officials only step up when their constituency contacts them in large numbers. Now that Josh and Randy have gotten the ball rolling, let's not let their efforts be in vain. Thank you Randy and Josh.

Having this issue with patents in the back of my mind, I can't help but remind our members how important it is to have the ability to challenge patent infringement. Having said that, I feel the best way to protect your invention is to initially submit a Provisional Patent Application. If you feel your idea is good enough that a company may infringe on your patent then consider licensing or partnering with a firm that has the financial ability to submit your Utility Patent for you. Just the clout of a large firm may be enough to deter another company from going forward with patent infringement. The old saying, "You can't fight city hall" has unique ring here.

Moving on to another subject. For years our Council has offered the "10 Steps to Inventing" as part of our Panel Review. I have offered the one sheet guide to any inventor asking questions, since we individual inventors need to stick together. If you are interested in a re-fresher on the steps, I will be happy to go over them at one of our meetings. I also usually have a few copies available for members to review. It is wise as you continue in the process of developing your idea, or when you start a new invention, to "review your notes", to make sure you're not skipping a crucial step that can enhance or flag your idea. Let's always remind each other to work smart on our ideas.

Remember, have fun with your invention!