

# INVENTORS COUNCIL OF MID-MICHIGAN

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

[www.inventorscouncil.org](http://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

Volume 2016

Next Meeting Thursday, November 10, 2016 - 7:00 pm

#11

## *Inventor Resources*

### **Officers & Directors**

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741  
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### **Michigan Inventor Clubs**

Grand Rapids Inventors Network  
[www.grinventorsnetwork.org](http://www.grinventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan  
[www.inventorscouncil.org](http://www.inventorscouncil.org)

Jackson Inventors Network  
[www.jacksoninventors.org](http://www.jacksoninventors.org)

MidMichigan Innovation Center  
[www.mmic.us](http://www.mmic.us)

Muskegon Inventors Network  
[www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org](http://www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit  
[www.inventoriamd.org](http://www.inventoriamd.org)

Lansing Inventors Network  
[www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- MiQuest September Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- U of M Flint is offering "5 Steps to Start Up" . Go to [www.go.umflint.edu/IN](http://www.go.umflint.edu/IN) for information.
- "Locating and opening a Business in Flint" workshop November 22 from 9:00am to 12:00 am at Kettering To register <http://tinyurl.com/zbf6m3g>

### **November Agenda:**

- e-team report by Rick Mason
- Communications by the Detroit Patent Office by Mary Kordyban
- Explanation of ACE 17 Annual Collaboration scheduled for Jan 26
- Discussion on Chicago Toy Game Week - Workbook
- Crowdfunding Workshop in Detroit Public Library – Mary Kordyban (e-mail connection)
- UIA affiliated Tradeshows and Inventor Events
- Cool Invention Network ideas
- Christmas party plans
- Networking

### **Minutes of October Meeting:**

- e-team did not meet this month
- Report from Rick Mason on "Small Business Forum" seminar conducted at the Oak Business Center Tuesday
- Mary Kordyban on Detroit Patent Office communications
- Inventors Correspondence
- Discussion on making your product video for Facebook, YouTube, your website, etc.
- Video series continued with Ryan Grepper called "Proven Path to Product Creation" . We will discuss his program.
- Networking

ICMM

Home of the Happy Inventors

## **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 Rick Mason to request a Pre-evaluation form and schedule a time. [xyzmason@aol.com](mailto:xyzmason@aol.com)

## **President's Note**

We talk a lot about filing a provisional patent application. Here is a good article that covers the key elements of what you should know. It does however, push for patent attorney assistance.

Taken from Don Debelak's "One Stop Invention Shop" articles.

### **Best Provisional Patent**

Best Provisional Patents clearly outline what your invention is, provide drawings and covers as much ground as possible, even listing disclosures and specifications that will lead to multiple patents later on.

The Internet seems to be full of provisional patents for \$149.00 or some other very low price. These prices work because no one looks at a provisional patent until they evaluate a utility patent application that looks at a provisional patent for priority. So if your provisional patent is not done correctly you won't get a priority date. Which means if someone else files for a patent on a product with similar claims to yours, they may be first to file and you won't be the first inventor to file and probably will lose ability to patent your idea.

Your provisional patent needs to have a detailed description and in most cases drawings to clearly show your invention so the patent examiner will feel you have possession of your invention. If you fail to show you have possession of your patent your provisional will be worthless. This detailed description should be written very similar to a standard non-provisional application.

Getting a provisional patent application number is of no assistance unless your patent is done right. That is why you are better off using a patent attorney or a patent agent on a provisional patent. No matter how much information you supply the patent agent or attorney, they will need to rewrite the Detail Description and the Summary of the Invention for the provisional patent, and probably have patent drawings completed. Be sure to ask for a copy to review before the provisional patent is sent off.

### **Drawings in a Provisional Patent Application**

Your disclosure in a provisional patent need to explain the invention. Drawings don't have to be to the same standard as a non-provisional patent, but they should include numbers for each component that goes with detailed description. I also like to include a Summary section on how the invention works.

### **Open-Ended Language**

You need to be sure you don't limit your potential patents deriving from a provisional patents by using any closed ended language. Phrases like "consisting of these features" are limiting in that only that combination of features can be patented. Since often you are getting a provisional patent first in order to do some market testing leave your options open. Instead of consisting use phrases like comprising components similar to, or "comprising in one embodiment of "are much better.

### **List Many Embodiments**

An advantage of the provisional patent is that you can end up with multiple patents using the same provisional patent examiner to apply for multiple patents when you file for a utility patent, but your provisional patent can, and should, give you the most flexibility for what final patent you want to apply for.

Get all these steps right and you will have all the best features of a provisional patent, with strong priority you can use in case of any dispute on priority for your invention.

as a priority date. List as many embodiments as you can think of, all with open-ended language in your patent. You will have to be more specific in your final patent, but listing as many possibilities as you can is permissible in a provisional patent.

### **Method of Use Description**

Patents can be either product based or method based. For a provisional patent it is a good idea to include a method of use description that would qualify for a method of use patent. Again you might eventually be required by an miner to do a separate patent for a method of use, but that won't matter for a priority date, the provisional patent can cover multiple patents.

**Remember to have fun with your invention!**