



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

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

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

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 2017

Next Meeting Thursday, March 9, 2017 - 7:00 pm

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## ***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](https://www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Michigan Inventors Network Expo – scheduled for Sept 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>
- Jumpstart 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – May 11, 2017
- MiQuest March Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- National source for Inventor Education [www.uiausa.org](http://www.uiausa.org)
- Webinar 3/28/17 : Tools to help you run your business  
<https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=1370022>

### **March Agenda:**

- E-team update: Rick Mason
- Orlando Home & Garden Expo – Rick Mason
- Update on MIC Expo 9/15 & 9/16
- Podcast with Chris Tanner, Patent Attorney, former Patent Examiner, inventor
- Networking

### **Minutes of February Meeting:**

- E-team update
- Congratulations to new Board Members and Officers
- Report on ACE' 17
- Update on this years MIC Expo 9/15 & 9/16
- Guest Speaker – Inventor Education Podcast on licensing your product to Major League Teams

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**

Inventors groups are organized to help folks who are seeking to develop their idea and take it to market. Suggesting options for these people usually takes on a “pros and cons” consideration by them on whether to proceed with their idea or not.

As inventors who have accomplished this, we often tend to lean toward the cautious in helping inventors and we could easily dampen their excitement about their idea. However, there are those folks who think they have “the greatest idea since sliced bread”. They usually say, “people can’t live without my idea”, or “everyone needs this”. I keep trying to think of a way to coach these people to face reality without ruining their enthusiasm for the next idea or invention they will surely have. Talking to them can be somewhat frustrating because we want them to genuinely consider the feasibility of their idea. But when we think about all the people in the world who disregard facts and convince themselves they know better than the experts, we realize all we can do is suggest the steps they should take and hope they are honest with themselves in going forward. It reminds me of the Flat Earth Society, who still gain about 200 members a year to this day. You can find them at [www.theflatearthsociety.org](http://www.theflatearthsociety.org). Disregarding all scientific proof, including satellite photos, members claim the Earth is flat. They base their belief on a theory developed by a 19<sup>th</sup> century “flat-earther” who claimed sensory observations reign supreme. Now, Flat Earth members have the right to believe whatever they want; their belief is for their own conclusions and comfort. But for inventors who want to develop and market a product, they have to convince the rest of the world that their idea makes sense.

Inventor groups give novice inventors the guidance and tools to decide themselves whether an idea will be a good, saleable product. But inventors must decide whether it is a good idea. There are marketing organizations and sales consultants that may help inventors, but If the inventor decides to ignore negative data, there is little we can do.

I’ve always felt the best thing about the invention process is getting an idea that I alone had, and that it was accepted by people from all walks of life; that I was able to solve a problem that other people were having. No matter how great you think your idea is, there is nothing worse than being rejected by the marketplace. That’s why you need to get your idea out there, after you have gained protection if needed, and get feedback from your customer. There are a lot of steps to take in the invention process and various roads to take during that process. The excitement is knowing your efforts are not in vain.

Remember to have fun with your invention!