



TENNESSEE INVENTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 11225

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37939-1225

September 16, 2006

Forthcoming Meeting, Saturday, September 16, 2006 at 10 AM in the 2020 Building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park (% Igor Alexeff, TIA President)

Forthcoming Program

The September speaker will be **Richard Jenkins** of Score (% **TIA Vice President Terry Brewster**). The topic is "What do big businesses look for in new products, etc?"

SCORE is a nonprofit, all-volunteer association dedicated to entrepreneurial education and the formation, growth, and success of small businesses nationwide. A resource partner with the US Small Business Administration, SCORE has 389 chapters and 10,500 volunteers nationwide. We're here to help you with FREE, CONFIDENTIAL information and support.

Richard Jenkins -25 years experience in Business to Business (B to B) Product Management and Marketing with various Document Communication Systems providers including Moore Business Forms Corporation and Standard Register. Primary skills include market identification, market and strategic planning, product development, introduction, and management. Other skills include creating Business and Marketing plans, trending and projection, collateral creation and design, direct mail campaigns, and trade show design and management.

Past Meeting, Saturday, August 19, 2006

This meeting was a TIA inventors' expo. TIA President Igor Alexeff made a video of TIA Members' protected inventions. The video came out quite well, and will be duplicated and sent to all local TV stations. Also, copies will be distributed to TIA members at the meetings. Surprisingly enough, the National TV Montel Williams Show just called TIA and asked for information for a show on inventors. We have sent them our inventors guide (requested), this newsletter and a copy of our video.

In addition **TIA Recording Secretary, Thomas Kulaga**, presented us with an update on the present situation on patent law in the United States.

TIA, Saturday, August 19, 2006 Meeting Notes % TIA Recording Secretary Thomas Kulaga

Celebrities among us

Two TIA members were featured on the television show "Live at Five" on Monday, August 14, 2006. Knoxville television station WBIR, TV-10, has a 5pm weekday show that features live interviews and presentations. Martin Skinner and Terry Carpenter showed their inventions to a Knoxville audience on the show. Martin presented his coiled hose caddy and Terry presented his Bible book game.

Saturday, August 19, 2006, Meeting

Igor Alexeff kicked off the August 19 meeting. Igor filmed an introduction and then filmed presentations made by several members. Igor said that he would have the video made during the meeting copied to DVD and made available to promote the TIA.

Martin Skinner presented his coiled hose caddy. He displayed a working model that was carrying a coiled hose. Martin also had a disassembled unit that easily fits into a small package for sale. Martin's invention is patent pending, and his patent application has been published.

Terry Carpenter presented his Bible Brain Bookcase. He originally came up with the idea for an electronic Bible book game after teaching Sunday school and using posters and a passive system to teach the books of the Bible. Terry invented the electronic book game that speaks the name of the book when it is inserted in its proper location. Terry submitted his design to a contest sponsored by Circuit Cellar and placed in the top 20 worldwide. Terry has set up a web site <www.TerryTechnologies.com> and his invention is patent pending.

Rainer Riffert discussed several of his projects that he has developed over the years, including an orthopedic shoe, AccuTread, for post-op patients to monitor the amount of weight being applied to their foot and his more recent projects for Griffin Technology, where he has been instrumental in designing and developing new consumer products. Rainer has been instrumental in designing products for the iPod, such as the iTrip, and Apple computers, such as the iMike, the Power Wave and Power Mate sound systems, the Radio Shark, the Power Pod, and the Rocket FM.

Dave Ellis said that he has several ideas that he is working on, and currently he is focusing on communications. Dave has invented and is promoting a system that provides registered voter information to election officials in a portable, compact package. He stores local voter information on a card that plugs into a standard PDA that allows election officials to verify voter registrations during elections. This invention is patent pending.

Sandy Webster presented her right angle ruler invention. The right angle ruler is a teaching aid that Sandy developed through her experience as a math teacher. She has a patent on the ruler and the ruler is currently being manufactured and sold by a licensee. Sandy said she just received her first royalty check! Sandy has a web site <www.RightAngleMath.com> for promoting her invention.

Gordon Campbell presented three inventions. He displayed the Scent of Life, a patented alarm system for the hearing impaired. The device emits a strong scent when a smoke alarm goes off. Gordon's second invention is the Flexerciser, a therapy device for treating and preventing tennis elbow. The exercise device is self-contained and easily stored and used. Gordon's third invention is an Easy Grader. The patented calculator is a portable computing device for teachers to easily calculate grades.

Igor Alexeff presented information on reconfigurable plasma antennas. He is the Chief Scientist for Haleakala R&D, Inc., which has a web site at <www.Haleakala-Research.com>. The company is working to commercialize Igor's invention. Igor has several patents and patent pending applications on his inventions.

Steve Brummett presented a prototype of his portable, automatic blood pressure pump. Steve developed his invention to aid him in accurately taking blood pressure measurements using a standard pressure cuff.

After the invention presentations, **Sylvia Nance**, a visitor who found out about the TIA by watching Monday's "Live at Five" show, told the members about her bad experience with an invention submission company.

Tom Kulaga, the TIA recording secretary and local patent attorney, presented a short discussion about rule changes, both made and proposed, at the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) during 2006. The PTO has implemented two rule changes so far this year. First, the PTO has a new electronic filing system that saves inventors money and also speeds up examination of patent applications. Second, the PTO has new rules for accelerated examination of patent applications. The new rules do not apply to accelerated examination for inventors over 65 years of age or in ill-health. The new accelerated examination rules will not benefit most inventors because they require concessions from the inventor.

There have been several changes proposed by the PTO and others. One proposed legislative change was to move the patent system from a first to invent system to a first to file a patent application system. This proposed change appears to be dead in the water at the moment. The PTO is proposing a rule change to reduce the number of claims that they will examine. A maximum of 10 claims will be examined for each a patent application in the proposed rule. Also, the PTO is proposing to allow only one continuation for an invention. This includes improvements to an invention. The PTO has received many comments against both of these proposals. Currently, the PTO is expected to announce by mid-Fall the final decision on these two proposed rules.

Another proposed rule affects Information Disclosure Statements, which are required to be filed with the PTO when the inventor has performed a patent search or otherwise knows of prior art relating to the invention. The PTO is seeking to limit the number of prior art references that inventors submit to the PTO.

The last discussed proposed rule change is the elimination of the Disclosure Document Program. The PTO admits that the program serves very little purpose because it only provides evidence of the conception of an invention. The program offers no protection and very few inventors are using the program.

A copy of Tom Kulaga's presentation handout is available on the TIA website with this month's newsletter.

TIA Web Site

The Tennessee Inventors Association web site is up and running at its new domain. The TIA web site can be seen at either <www.TnInventors.org> or <www.TennesseeInventors.org>. Both web addresses point to the same web site. Thanks go to Laurel Bowen for setting up and hosting the site.

.Meeting Alert!

10th Annual Tennessee Valley Venture Forum (% Cathy Burnett)

Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN, 37902,
Wednesday, September 27, Thursday, September 28, 2006.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office
invites you to the
11th Annual Independent Inventors Conference
September 8-9, 2006 at 8 a.m.
USPTO Headquarters
600 Dulany Street • Alexandria, VA

Join top officials from the United States Patent and Trademark Office and successful inventors and entrepreneurs to learn effective strategies to help protect and market your **BIG IDEA!**

Speakers:

- **Stephen M. Pinkos**, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
- **John Doll**, Commissioner for Patents
- **Lynne Beresford**, Commissioner for Trademarks
- **Gregory Hart**, a finalist in the History Channel's recent *Modern Marvels* Invent Now Competition
- **Louis Forman**, CEO of Eventys and executive producer of the upcoming PBS series *Everyday Edison's*

Register today, seating is limited!

Registration Fee: \$50 per person for both days (includes all sessions and presentations, refreshments, lunch and a networking reception on Friday evening).

First time attendees are invited to participate in a pre-conference seminar on September 7, 2006 from 5-7 p.m.

To register for the conference, please visit

www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/iip/iiconf/

or call the National Inventors Hall of Fame at 330.849.6903 For more information, please call the Inventors Assistance Program at 571.272.8850.

Visit The Largest Designing and Manufacturing Show in the Mid-South!

Knoxville Convention Center, September 13 and 14, 2006, Wed. 9:30-4:00, Thurs. 9:30-3:00.

Photos of Past Speakers

www.TnInventors.org> or <www.TennesseeInventors.org

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ DUES RENEWAL

Mail to TIA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11225, Knoxville, TN 37939-1225

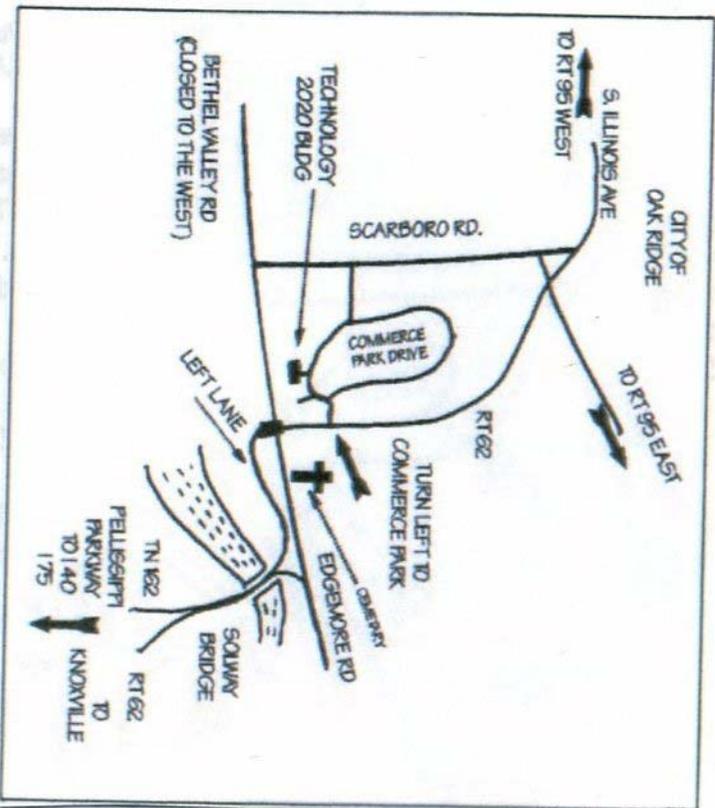
Dues are \$30.00 per year , and due in January. Anyone joining after January will pay a pro rated amount.
Please make checks payable to Tennessee Inventors Association.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ **E-mail** _____

INVENTIONS



REGULAR MEETINGS

1020 COMMERCE PARK DR.

(2020 BUILDING)

THIRD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

10:00 A.M. TILL NOON

FOR INFORMATION CALL

865-483-0151



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