

# **Upcoming TIA Meeting for SATURDAY, December 20, 2008**

**At 10 AM in the 2020 building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park.  
Visitors are always welcome.**

**By Tom Kulaga, TIA Recording Secretary  
Upcoming TIA Meeting on December 20, 2008**

With the holiday season in full force, the December meeting of the TIA will be a member participation meeting. All members are invited to make a short presentation of their current projects. Anyone who wishes to have their invention featured on the TIA web site <[www.TnInventors.org](http://www.TnInventors.org)> can bring a prototype or other information to the meeting. Pictures will be taken for the web site. Members are cautioned that they should not make a presentation (a public disclosure) of their invention if they are trying to keep their invention confidential.

Also, part 2 of the discussion on how to encourage participation by youth will continue at the meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring their ideas for embracing new members and encouraging inventorship among the younger people in the area.

## **Meeting Notes from November 15, 2008 Meeting**

**Elections held!** November is when the TIA holds their annual elections of officers and board members. The officer positions were all uncontested. **Joe Martin** remains president. **Terry Brewster** remains our past-president. **Tom Kulaga** was elected Vice-President. **Igor Alexeff** remains treasurer. **Steve Yoder** was elected recording secretary. **Ann Alexeff** was elected corresponding secretary.

We had six nominees for the four board positions: the incumbents were AJ Beal, Gordon Campbell, Martin Skinner, and Rainer Riffert. The two new nominees were Steve Levy and Steve White. A run-off was required and the 2009 board members are **AJ Beal, Martin Skinner, Steve Levy, and Steve White.**

**Martin Skinner** discussed his experience at Yankee Invention Expo 2008 and Yankee Entrepreneur Workshops. Martin attended the Expo on October 9 through 11 in Waterbury, Connecticut. He estimated that the cost to attend and present with a booth cost approximately \$800, including travel and lodging.

Martin said that he had about 150 brochures printed and handed out 140 of them. The crowd at the Expo was mostly sightseers with only a few businesses. He said that Everyday Edisons was there and that a film crew from Jay Leno's Tonight Show was there filming.

Martin also gave an update on his Koil Kaddy invention. He said that he traveled to the Patent and Trademark Office and interviewed the PTO examiner about his patent application. Martin was hopeful that the examiner would do the right thing.

**Joe Martin** conducted a short brainstorming session about encouraging youth to participate in science and invention, particularly with the TIA. The idea of contacting local community colleges was raised and Martin Skinner volunteered. The discussion on encouraging youth will continue at the December meeting.

**Bonny Baldwin** discussed the mice cube, which she described as a humane invention that was, literally, a better mouse trap.

**Martin Skinner** mentioned the website for the DaVinci Institute at <[www.davinciInstitute.com](http://www.davinciInstitute.com)>. The DaVinci Institute is a Colorado non-profit company that seeks to promote inventors and entrepreneurs.

**Ben Nabali** of APTUS DesignWorks Inc., was our featured speaker. Ben spoke on "Product Development and Sourcing." He discussed the steps between getting the original idea and getting a product to market. He covered the topics of

- \* Overview of the stages of Product Development
- \* Types of Design and Engineering Resources and how to choose
- \* The difference between Prototypes, Samples, and Product
- \* The importance of documentation
- \* Selecting and managing your supplier(s)

Ben identified various design and engineering resources. First was "free" design, which is a design that is offered by a potential supplier. While "free," typically the design is owned by the supplier and it is difficult to change suppliers and take the design with you. Second was the do-it-yourself design by a non-specialist. The cost for a DIY design is time. Third was the contract design by a hired specialist. The size of the company providing the design services typically determines the personal service and cost of creating the design. Last, was the design by an invention promotion company. Ben cautioned that such companies have a history of being un reputable.

Ben discussed prototypes, samples, and product and the important, but distinct, place each holds in product development. He cautioned against sending prototypes to potential customers if there was a possibility of them being misled about the final product.