

**Upcoming TIA Meeting for SATURDAY, January 17, 2009  
At 10 AM in the 2020 building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park.  
Visitors are always welcome.**

## ***Time to renew your TIA Dues for 2009.***

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The January meeting of the Tennessee Inventors Association will feature a presentation by Tom Kulaga, a Knoxville patent attorney and vice-President of the TIA. Tom's presentation will cover the what-why-how-when of patent protection of inventions. Information on the reasons to consider patent protection will be provided, along with a description of the various types of patents and patent applications.

### **Meeting Notes from December 20, 2008 Meeting By Steve Yoder, recording secretary**

The December meeting did not have an official speaker, as the meeting was considered too close to the Christmas Holidays to have a large turnout. However, several show and tell speakers provided valuable input. After everyone had a chance to update the members on their projects,

**Cathy Burnett** presented the twenty-minute video, The Electric Farmer, which discusses progress in renewable energy. See <<http://www.electricfarmer.com>> for more information.

**Joe Martin** opened the meeting. Some visitors and new members were present. Joe discussed the benefits he has received from participating in trade shows. His company has produced a new brochure that is circulated at trade shows as well as placed in several national trade magazines. He has also found success in partnering with a large catalog distributor. An arrangement has been made where exclusive licensing is exchanged for a contribution to the cost of development. This relationship has developed in an effort to adapt to the changing economy.

**Igor Alexeff** discussed progress in his patented sterilizer. St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis has tested the sterilizer on strong bacteria that is not available to UT. The tests showed a five-minute sterilization period compared to traditional sterilization which requires two days for complete sterilization. Another advantage is the high speed sterilization is achieved without high heat that usually accompanies high speed sterilization techniques. Igor believes he has entered a fixed market with an aggressive market-driven interest that is immune to the economic downturn.

**A.J. Beal** highlighted the U.S. innovation advantage that may not be imported. He emphasized that to compete in the global economy you need to be the first with the most. A.J. has been working with Joe Martin on a compact high horsepower dynamometer. This innovation may change the way the market uses dynamometers.

A.J. also presented his rotary vane machine which could be an engine, compressor, or a pump. His objective is to provide a reduced weight motor with

improved fuel efficiency for the automobile industry. He has recently been working on the seals. He has chosen to work out the seals on his own rather than outsource the work.

**Terry Brewster** presented a way in which the TIA may become involved with youth to inspire the innovative spirit. The group Vols4STEM who is seeking mentors to contribute to classroom learning. Their website is <<http://vols4stem.org>>. Terry also identified the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition as an organization worth getting to know better. Their website is <<http://ETCleanFuels.org>>.

**Gordon Campbell** presented the Invention Book, written by Steve Caney, as a recommended resource for introducing young people to inventions. The book is available on Amazon. Gordon encouraged inventors to use a lab notebook. He spoke about his first of over twenty inventions and two patents, the Buddy Bar. Gordon also addressed issues associated with the TIA sponsoring classroom invention competitions. He noted that modern curriculum focuses on skills required to pass standardized tests with little to no time for fun activities such as invention competitions.

**Martin Skinner** suggested we post brochures on the bulletin boards of Roane State. He has been in contact with representatives of the school who agreed to post such brochures. Roane State suggested forming a student branch of the TIA. Martin discussed his progress with the Koil Kaddy. He has a three-piece flat stock version that is more economically shipped than the earlier tubular design. Martin is seeking someone to pick up where he is and take this invention to the market. There are some hurdles to overcome such as optimized design for under one dollar per Kaddy. He also needs a market analysis including the number of coil hoses that are sold and what's the cost of the hoses. He is interested in a trade show coming up in Denver, CO. Martin can be seen with his Koil Kaddy in a photo presented during the credits of the Everyday Edisons television show.

Note that Martin Skinner had his Koil Kaddy patent application rejected several times by the U S Patent office. Martin kept appealing, and now has a patent. This story should be a lesson to all of us.

**Joe Martin** closed the meeting with a call for speakers and a committee of members to focus on potential youth members. There was also a brief discussion about getting public service announcements to various television stations, including Channel 2 and Channel 22 in Cookeville. **Tom Kulaga** agreed to present Patents 101 for the January meeting. Joe may invite an expert on China manufacturing for a future TIA meeting.

The youth activation committee volunteers are **Terry Brewster, Gordon Campbell,** and **Steve White.**

## **Alabama Conference for Inventors**

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, Call (256) 782-5324. Web <http://www.jsu.edu/library/information/directions.html>. **This should be good.** Mr. John Calvert from the U. S. Patent and Trademark office will be speaking. The site is between Chattanooga and Birmingham off Interstate 59.