



# Newsletter

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

Sept/Oct 2011

## Next Public Meeting - Wednesday, Oct 5, 2011

6:30 Networking - 7:00 Meeting - Meetings are at the [Enterprise Center at STCC](#) - Springfield, MA.  
Agenda: 6:30 - 7 Networking 7-7:15 Announcements 7:15-8:15+ Speaker, discussions, QA.  
\*Public Meetings are **free** for members and now free for the public (non-members)!

## 2011 Dues Reminder!

Most of you have already paid or renewed, however some members have not. If you received a letter in the mail in August and still have not sent in your 2011 dues, please do so now. The IRN is an all volunteer org and relies on member dues for expenses, speakers, newsletter, web site improvements, etc.

## Public Meeting Speaker - Oct. 5 - Patent Attorney Michael A. Blake



You don't want to miss the Oct. Meeting! It would typically cost you hundreds of dollars per hour just to talk with a expert of this caliber - instead you can do so for only the cost of a little gas in your tank!

Our speaker this month has experience and degrees in mechanical engineering as well as law and patents. This combination is especially valuable as Michael is able to apply his vast experience to the field of innovation and invention.

Michael serves the inventors community in a multitude of ways - from teaching courses on Intellectual Property to sitting on the boards of some of the most active innovators associations.

Bring your friends and associates AND your questions. This is sure to be a winner for all.

## August Meeting Recap



We were pleased to have Paulina Borrego, the Reference Services Librarian at the Science & Engineering Library of UMass/Amherst, as our Aug. speaker. Paula runs one of the few institutions with a direct computer link into the US Patent Office computers in Arlington VA. This makes her library a Patent and Trademark Depository Library - the ONLY one near our area! Paulina is experienced in the use of the system and is available to help innovators properly learn basic Patent Search methods.

Some IRN members expressed interest in visiting the Patent Depository and Paulina

has graciously agreed to host such a group. If you would like to join such an excursion, please send an email to Karen at [khss10@juno.com](mailto:khss10@juno.com)

Members who want to learn more should download and listen to the podcast of Paulina's talk. You can do this by going to the itunes store and searching for Innovators Resource Network. You can then download the podcast onto your computer or other device.

Or, use the following URL to access the MP3 Audio directly:

<http://hearth.com/podcast/irn/podcast.xml>

## Web site Update!

IRN member Micheal Kat. has been hard at work transferring the older IRN site to a new host and format. It is now up and running, although we have many additional changes and features to make! Please take a look at our new site and give us your feedback!

<http://www.irnetwork.org>

As you would expect, the site links to our Facebook, Meetup and Podcast pages!

## NEW PATENT LAW PASSED AND SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

Patent reform has passed the Senate and been signed into law by the President. The bill, entitled the "America Invents Act" will make some changes that small inventors should be aware of. Some fees will actually be lowered for the small innovator! Another big change is the move to a "first to file" system, which requires that your invention be considered against others and against the state-of-the-art when you file, not when you thought it up. This encourages filing in a relatively quick fashion after invention. In the coming months, we will try to bring you updates on the new Act.