

Inventors COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

www.inventorscouncil.org

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

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 2016

Next Meeting Thursday, March 10, 2016 - 7:00 pm

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Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741
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Vice-President: Mary Kordyban 313-481-1391
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Director: Paul Atkins
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Michigan Inventor Clubs

Grand Rapids Inventors Network
www.grinventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan
www.inventorscouncil.org

Jackson Inventors Network
www.jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center
www.mmic.us

Muskegon Inventors Network
www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit
www.inventoriamd.org

Lansing Inventors Network
www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork

Upcoming Events:

- Grow your business networking at the PTAC Networking event. Flint & Genesee job Corps Center on March 18th.
<http://tinyurl.com/PTACMarchMadness>
- "5 Steps to Referral Success" workshop – April 19th - Genesee Chamber of Commerce. <https://www.flintandgenesee.org/events/10-commandments-networking/>
- MiQuest March Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- Amazon Launchpad – a unique program that makes it easy for startups to launch new products and get them discovered on Amazon.
https://www.amazon.com/gp/launchpad/signup?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0

Agenda - March 10th Meeting:

- Our guest speaker this month will be Doug Prehoda from the Mott Community College FAB Lab. Some of our new members are unaware of the assistance they can get from the FAB Lab with CAD, Rapid Prototyping, Laser cutting and other equipment. Doug will introduce us to some new equipment the Lab has coming in that will add to their repertoire; a good review and update for current members.
- We will discuss the many correspondences we have received this past month including some training opportunities in our area.
 - A short report on the Jumpstart conference
 - Round Table and Networking

Our February Meeting:

- Mary Kordyban was elected Vice President
- Mike Wiley was elected to fill the remaining term on the Board of Directors
- We discussed changes to our Newsletter
- Updated changes to Jump Start
- A Presentation of Package development by Marty Sovis
- Roundtable by members and guests and Networking

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

President's Corner

Speaking to people at the Jumpstart conference made me realize we need to remind inventors of the basic steps in the invention process. I continuously meet inventors who are in their 6th or 7th step in developing their idea, but have skipped some of the essential first steps. Everyone understands you can't even sketch out your idea unless you have the idea in your mind, but they lose sight of the fact that every step needs to be in order. Though some things can be done simultaneously, certain things need to be in chronological order. So I want to outline the first few steps that give you a base to build from.

1. Sketch your idea on paper with some rough dimensions that you can finalize later.
2. Make a mock-up to get a visual on what this thing looks like. (use cardboard, wood, tape, felt markers, anything to bring out that idea).
3. Now you need to see if there is something out there already like your idea. And there are several avenues that you must look into here. Be careful though; some items may be similar to yours but do not correct the problem like yours does, yet others correct the problem just enough that makes your idea unprofitable. Also remember, just because you don't find your idea in a patent search does not mean a product isn't out there; 75% of the products on the market do not have patents. The reverse is also true; if you don't find it for sale anywhere, someone could have patented a product and did not pursue getting it to market.
4. Now as you continue through each remaining step you need to continuously ask yourself whether this will be a profitable idea or not. This is also where you consider whether you need intellectual property protection, if you should make a proto-type, how you will you make it and from what material, what it will cost, who your customer will be, , and what it would likely sell for to be competitive. I always like to say at this point, "make one and sell it to someone other than your mother". You may think this is the greatest idea that no one can live without, but be realistic; we are all alive and don't have your product yet.

There is a lot of research and work to be done at these stages and I have only highlighted initial items. They have to be done whether you continue on with your invention or not. This research, whether done by you or hired professionally, gives you the confidence to move forward with this idea, or on to another idea.

Next month, we will outline some of the remaining steps in this invention process, and why completing one step before starting another makes this journey a fun adventure.

Remember to have fun with your invention!