



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

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

www.inventorscouncil.org

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, September 8, 2016 - 7:00 pm

#9

Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

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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:

- MiQuest September Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- LAST NOTICE: Michigan Inventors EXPO this Wednesday **September 8th** at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 South Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI. Registration at 8:00 am.

Agenda - September 8th Meeting:

- E-team report by Rick Mason
- Cover current month correspondences
- Discussion on the Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo on Wednesday, September 7th - by Mary Kordyban, Rick Mason, and Marty Sovis.
- Guest Speaker: I have signed on to Ryan Grepper's video series from the Inventor's Blueprint. This one is titled "Don't make this mistake".
- Networking

Our August Meeting minutes:

- Past month correspondences were reviewed
- Report on Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo by Mary Kordyban
- e-team report by Marty Sovis
- Video training session by Adrian Pelkus, a San Diego Inventors Forum founder called "17 Mistakes Inventors make".
- Networking

ICMM

Home of the Happy Inventors

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 Note

I thought this month I would list a few of the companies that I have used to get my products to market. These are just suggestions, but have been a good resource for me to get material I needed:

- Looking for material to package and ship your product? I use Uline. If you order by 6:00 pm, they ship the next day. Call: 1-800-295-5510 or go to www.uline.com They also run sales periodically on items such as packaging tape, specific boxes, and filler.
- If you have heavy items to ship, also consider the U.S. Post Office. Pickup their free "Flat Rate" Boxes. Anything less than 70 pounds ships for a flat rate, depending on whether it's a Small, Medium, or Large Flat rate box. You have to use their "Flat Rate" box to get the discount, but they're free. You can even order shipping material at www.usps.com
- Do you need steel, industrial supplies, or plastics? You can buy any kind of steel from tubing, flat stock, round stock; any type from cold-rolled steel to stainless, aluminum to plastic at Alro Steel. They have warehouse facilities in most of the mid-west and a few other states. Michigan has the most including Flint, Detroit, Charlotte, Grand Rapids, Jackson, and Grayling. Call: 888-888-2576 or go to www.alro.com
- If you need small quantities of any type of industrial or commercial materials and supplies go to my favorite supplier, McMaster-Carr. This is a private, family-owned supplier, based outside of Chicago that handles over 555,000 products. Order online at www.mcmastercarr.com before 6:00 pm and they will have the product to you the next day. If you need help, call 330-995-5500 or text 76947. I have purchased from them for close to 50 years and have always had exactly what I ordered the next day. I really like them.
- Other arenas to explore are the industrial suppliers in our area. Probably resulting from the auto industry, Michigan has always been blessed with top notch suppliers. You can get nuts, bolts, taps, drills, etc., just like through McMaster-Carr but pick them up at their facility. Grainger has an outlet in Flint on Lapeer road. Or go to www.grainger.com for a facility near you. Manufacturers Equipment & Supply Co (also known as MESCO Solutions) is located on Lapeer Road in Flint. Call: 1-810-239-2173 or go to www.mescosolutions.com for a facility near you. Also consider MSC Industrial Supply Company with an outlet in Detroit. Call: 734-953-8864 or go to www.branchdetroit@mscdirect.com These three suppliers are nationwide and ship same day.
- For a small number of business flyers, brochures, or business cards you can use Office Depot/ Office Max, but if you want to get a large number and get a very good discount go to www.colorfxweb.com They are based in California, but have one of their printing facilities in Warren. You have to deal directly through their website in CA.; they are a very good company.
- I buy clam-shell packaging from Andex in Escanaba, MI. You have to buy through one of their distributors. www.andex.net
- Another competitive clam-shell supplier I buy from is Display Pack in Grand Rapids. You can buy direct at www.display.com

These are just some of the companies you can deal with to get supplies, but I have found them to be the easiest to deal with and the most reputable for me.

Remember to have fun with your invention!