

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 2017

Next Meeting Thursday, July 13, 2017 - 7:00 pm

#7

Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741
msovis@comcast.net

Vice-Pres: Ken Yee 586-596-4137
gmadesign@comcast.net

Sec/Treas: Rick Mason 810-659-7935
xyzmason@aol.com

Director: Mike Wiley
mwiley1111@aol.com

Director: Dwayne Towns
dbl.towns@gmail.com

Director: Mary Kordyban 313-481-1391
mkordyban1@gmail.com

Director: James White 517-381-1960
jimsicmm@inventorhome.com

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

ICMM

Home of the Happy Inventors

Upcoming Events:

- MiQuest July Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- SBDC workshops available:
<https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- National source for Inventor Education www.uiausa.org
- Michigan Inventors Network Expo – scheduled for Sept 15th & 16th
- Free patent search seminar on July 20th at UofM Ann Arbor – Register to attend: <http://ttc.iss.lsa.umich.edu/ttc/sessions/intro-to-patent-searching/>

July Agenda:

- No e-team meeting scheduled
- Update on Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo
 - attending the event
 - teaming up on a table
 - volunteers to help out
- Guest Speaker – Dan Kurin, Tech Coordinator at “Factory Two”; a makerspace located in downtown Flint. See what is available for inventors at www.factorytwo.org
- Introduction to inexpensive advertising on local TV – Rick Mason
- Elevator Pitch initiation
- Cookies and Coffee during our intermission
- Networking

Minutes of June Meeting:

- E-team update: Results of Jumpstart
- Board meeting report
- Financial Report
- Update on Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo – Sept 15, 16
- Initial introduction to Factory Two in Flint
- Discussion on Pitch Presentation and awards
- Guest Speaker – David Olilila, President, Chief Innovation Officer at Skypoint Ventures discussed what

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

Last month we made mention of the various arenas inventors need to engage in to manufacture and sell their product. I used the adage of “Jack of all trades; Master of nothing” to explain that its impossible to have the expertise in all arenas to do your product justice. One thing, however, that we, as inventors, need to master is the ability to develop the basic idea of our invention. Otherwise we don't really have a product. If we can't make a mock-up and develop a decent proto-type, how are we ever going to get our idea from our brain to the store shelf? This means we have to have some ability to design and build this mock-up to bring it to life; to be able to hold it in our hands, to touch it, to see what this thing will look like. That is why I am happy to have our guest speaker this month address how a “maker-space” can bring that thought to life. He will explain to us the tools, equipment, and assistance available to an inventor who normally doesn't have access to these items. Even if we are going to license or sell our product, we have to have an item that we can look at to gain interest from potential licensors or buyers. We have had several inventors come before our Panel Review tell us they know how they want to make an item, but don't have access to the tools to do it. This is important that, as you are making your item, you need to develop its proper size and shape. These are things you can't readily visualize without being able to see it in front of you. For me, this has always been the fun part; changing the length or thickness of something; making the whole thing bigger or smaller. Once you have this proto-type roughed in, then comes the CAD drawings, and pictures for advertising, and decisions on material and processing; or who you sell the idea to, who is going to manufacture and sell for you.

So if you don't have a way to get your idea from that bar napkin into something you can talk about, you may be in search of a place that has the proper equipment to help you out. This month's meeting may be a good opportunity to find out what where you can go.

Remember to have fun with your invention!