

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

As a non-profit, Our Meetings are Open to the Public
We appreciate a donation of \$5.00 at the Door

Volume 2018

Next Meeting Thursday, June 14, 2018 - 7:00 pm

#6

June Agenda:

- New Correspondence
- Feedback from participants at "Meet the Buyer 2018" in Flint
- MIC Expo in September – reminder to schedule table and place your product on the MIC website
- Table of products – Show your product and print out a short history of how you reached your goals.
- Guest Speaker: Melissa Allen, Owner of TinkrLAB in Okemos. TinkrLAB is a place for children to build projects and develop their building skills. Melissa will discuss TinkrLAB's new section dedicated to Michigan inventors; displaying their products and covering the development of their idea.
- Submit your questions for IGA
- Networking

Upcoming Events:

- MiQuest June Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- Upcoming Small Business Trainings in Flint
<https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=60380003>
- Michigan Inventors Expo - Thursday, September 6th - Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing www.michiganinventorscoalition.org

Minutes of May Meeting:

- New Correspondence
- Report on Washington D.C. trip by IGA
- Table of Products each month by members
- Get your product on MIC webpage.
- Reminder to schedule a table for the MIC Fall Expo
- Speakers were Pamela Lippitt and Ryan Cole from DASI-Solutions. Ryan showed the unique advantages of Solidworks, and how it can help an inventor develop an idea without long hours spent on design work.

Inventor Resources

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

National Affiliations

Inventor Group of America
www.inventleader.org

United Inventors Association of America
www.uiausa.org

ICMM 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 810-449-3643

xyzmason@aol.com

Director: Mike Wiley 810-687-1900

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

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 get accused of being too candid at times, but I always like to blame that on our past president Mike Ball. He was told he never had a "filter" on his expressions, and that is one of many things I admired about my buddy, Mike. Having said that, I am going to put something out there that may seem blunt, but I feel it could help our members who seem to be stalled on getting their product moving. So, here is a general critique that may apply:

We all know that our group is always open to anyone who wants to develop and present their pitch at a meeting. This gives you excellent feedback by other inventors who either have made pitches themselves or have listened to a lot of product pitches. Now none of us will probably make a pitch as dynamic as the guy selling "Flex-Seal" on TV, but that type of presentation should be what we are striving to reach. Through the years I have taken courses on making presentations, from being in Forensic Debate in high school, to Dale Carnegie, to being a Technical Training Instructor, and just having the "gift of gab". All of these stress the fact that to make a good presentation, a speaker needs to know the subject "inside and out". Dale Carnegie even suggests that you speak to a group knowing in your mind that you know more about the subject than anyone else in your audience, and they are all eager to hear what you have to say. So, I ask myself why are inventors hesitant to pitch their product? Are they not the most knowledgeable about the product? Or do they feel the product is not something people would be eager to hear about? Or is it that some inventors are not sure that their product will do what they say, and thus don't want to put themselves out on a limb?

I challenge those of you who are hesitant to pitch your product to look heavily into why you feel this way. Do you know enough about what you have invented to know that it is a good idea? Have you introduced it to enough unbiased people to feel confident that it will sell? Does it accomplish more than your competition? Ask all the questions we cover in our "Ten steps to Inventing" and if you are convinced this is a great idea, then do something about it. Learn how to make a two minute pitch or if you are uncomfortable at speaking in public, get a friend, family member, or confidant to learn all about your product and pitch it for you. As the saying goes, "if you snooze, you lose." You don't want to wake up one morning and find that someone else has invented a product similar to yours and taken all the "wow" factor out of your idea.

Remember to have fun with your invention!