

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, Sept 13, 2018 - 7:00 pm

#8

August Agenda:

NO MEETING scheduled for August. Watch for updates on the Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo this coming September 6th.

Our September meeting will be held after the Expo, so I will be reminding all members as time nears!

As announced at our last meeting, I met with David Ollila and Heidi McAra at 100K ideas in the Ferris Wheel Building. I will have a report at our September meeting. Also, we will choose a date to tour their facility.

Upcoming Events:

- National Veteran Business Matchmaker 2018. Two day free event held at the MotorCity Casino Hotel on September 10th. Connecting Veteran owned businesses with purchasers. <https://pmbc.connect.space/2018-veteran-business-matchmaker/forms/vobs-pre-registration/submissions/new>
- MiQuest August Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- Michigan Inventors Expo – Kellogg Conference Center – East Lansing Thursday, September 6th www.michiganinventorscoalition.org

Minutes of July Meeting:

- e-team report - we met at the Ferris Wheel Building in Flint. Continued to stress our interaction with members to help those needing help with their business.
- Report on Inventors Group of America simulcast
- Outline of "How to sell your product" by Akos Jankura from mycoolinventions.com
- Reminder to schedule a table for the MIC Fall Expo
- Podcast on taking your invention to trade shows

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

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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:

| It's August and a good time for me to sit back and reflect on the process of inventing. I came across an article during my Sunday readings that caught my attention. It talked about how we should know how to utilize our Time, Talents, and Treasures. I realized this is what we should know in regards to developing our invention. So if you're a novice inventor, or want to launch another product, here is my suggestion on what to consider:

- Time: If you can't apply much time to your idea, how is it going to move forward? The idea that you can scribble your idea on a "bar napkin", hand it off to someone, and sit home in your lazy boy waiting for the checks to come in, is a pipe dream. You have to put the time into it, even if it is working with the experts. Your excitement in getting your product to market is the driving force to make it happen.
- Talents: You can only do what you know how to do. Here is some baseline information you need to know, or else find a professional to do for you:
 - Designing the product yourself. I find it contradictory to say, "I have an idea, but I can't sketch it out". How does one expect to get an idea off the ground if you can't even draw what it looks like, let alone be able to dimension it? If you have to hire someone to "pick your brain" and sketch out what they think you are saying, you have a hard and expensive road ahead of you.
 - Computer Aided Design – CAD. Not all inventors can utilize CAD, but this is one of the costs you will encounter to get your product put into the language that manufacturers need to make your product.
 - What will your product be made of - Steel, plastic, etc. You should have an idea what will be the appropriate material, but the experts in manufacturing can guide you here.
 - How will it be manufactured – stamped, cast, assembled, etc. You have to have some manufacturing knowledge to head in the right direction.
 - How will it be packaged: Look for the marketing experts
 - Will your product sell and can it be profitable: If you can't complete a cost analysis on the price point, you need to get someone who can crank out the numbers. You certainly don't want to sell a product that loses money.
- Treasures
 - Can you personally finance your invention
 - Do you have enough financing to carry it through the whole process
 - Do you need to find an investor, partner, or licensor
 - Should you sell your patent outright

Though there are a lot of specifics you need to plug in, use this as a reference as you enjoy the ride!

Remember, have fun with your invention!