



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 2017

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

#4

Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741
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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:

- Michigan Inventors Network Expo – scheduled for Sept 15th & 16th
- Jumpstart 10th Annual Conference – May 11, 2017
- MiQuest April Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- National source for Inventor Education www.uiausa.org
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April Agenda:

- E-team update: Marty Sovis
- Jumpstart Keynote Speaker announced
- Financial Report – Rick Mason
- Update on MIC Expo – Marty Sovis
- Phone Contact and Podcast with Inventors Manufacturing Company

Minutes of March Meeting:

- E-team update: Rick Mason
- Orlando Home & Garden Expo – Rick Mason
- Introduction to “PAIR” program on uspto.gov – Mary Kordyban
- Podcast with Chris Tanner, Patent Attorney, former Patent Examiner, inventor
- Discussion of podcast by members
- 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

Our Council pays a lot of attention to the basic steps of getting a product to market. What is hard to do is recommend specialists in certain fields, the hardest being manufacturing and marketing. Each particular product our inventors have can fall into different fields of manufacturing, whether that be molding, metal die stamping, sewing, etc. Because an inventor must know what field of manufacturing he/she will require, it will determine the arena of marketing that will be needed. In Michigan we are extremely fortunate in the manufacturing and assembly of metal and plastics products. We also have expertise in material sewing. The automotive industry has pioneered the best of the best, but also our colleges and universities have groomed our engineering folks to understand these processes and constantly search for improved methods. This means we have a fountain of expertise to go to for our inventions since automotive sub-contractors are always looking to diversify their client base. Does this mean that Michigan manufacturers are the "go no further" companies to consider? No, but they are the ones to consider when you are launching your products. I personally have found a machining company in Michigan that manufactures one of my metal products for far less than a cast part can be made. What advantage is this for me? Well, I can order as little as one thousand parts to start production, and if I want to make changes, I can do that on the next one thousand I buy. For a small fee to re-program their tooling, I have a perfected part that most often has customer input into it. If I had gone to China for a casting, I may have gotten parts cheaper, but I have to consider an extremely high volume for the cheaper price plus customs and shipping, and no changes until I have exhausted a high volume of inventory.

I also have quotes for a fiberglass filled nylon products from two companies in Michigan that is less than two Chinese companies. Both quotes from China did not include shipping, customs, and insurance; know that you own the product once it hits the dock in China.

So is Michigan, or the United States for that matter, the place to have products made? Maybe not in all cases, but my point is that when you are developing your product, you are going to make changes as you go. You may want to change to a more robust material, or you find a small change in the design makes for a better functioning part. Whatever the case, you are close to the manufacturer to make those changes, and he speaks English. In the end, you have more control over the process, and you may find Michigan, or America, is less expensive.

Going back to the second item I mentioned, marketing, how much advantage does your product have in the marketplace when you can advertise "Made in the USA".

Remember to have fun with your invention!