



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, August 10, 2017 - 7:00 pm

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### ***Inventor Resources***

#### **Officers & Directors**

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#### **Michigan Inventor Clubs**

Grand Rapids Inventors Network  
[www.grinventorsnetwork.org](http://www.grinventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan  
[www.inventorscouncil.org](http://www.inventorscouncil.org)

Jackson Inventors Network  
[www.jacksoninventors.org](http://www.jacksoninventors.org)

MidMichigan Innovation Center  
[www.mmic.us](http://www.mmic.us)

Muskegon Inventors Network  
[www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org](http://www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit  
[www.inventoriamd.org](http://www.inventoriamd.org)

Lansing Inventors Network  
[www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- MiQuest August Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- National source for Inventor Education [www.uiausa.org](http://www.uiausa.org)
- Michigan Inventors Network Expo – scheduled for Sept 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **August Agenda:**

- No e-team meeting in August
- Group admission for MIC Expo in Lansing in September and discount accommodations available
- Elevator Pitch / Outline & Practice
- Guest Speaker: Michael Crawford, Instructor for Marketing & Visual Design Communications at the Genesee Career Institute. Check their website at [www.geneseeisd.org](http://www.geneseeisd.org)
- Cookies & Coffee
- Further discussion on meeting agenda outline
- Networking

#### **Minutes of July Meeting:**

- Updates were given on Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo
  - attending the event
  - teaming up on a table
  - volunteers to help out
- Our Guest Speaker was Dan Kurin, Tech Coordinator at “Factory Two”. He discussed what their makerspace, located in downtown Flint, can do to help inventors develop their idea. Get more information at [www.factorytwo.org](http://www.factorytwo.org)
- Introduction to inexpensive advertising on local TV – Rick Mason
- Elevator Pitch initiation
- Cookies and Coffee during our intermission
- 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](mailto:xyzmason@aol.com)

### **President's Note**

Last month we discussed an inventor's ability to develop the basic idea of an invention. I used the discussion to introduce our guest speaker from a maker-space in downtown Flint. Many larger cities now have maker-space facilities that are designed to give local residents a place to work on a project, develop an idea, or work on a hobby. We are blessed in Flint to have various facilities available to help our inventors. I have talked of them in the past, but this month I want to talk about what our guest speaker will be presenting about a unique facility in Genesee County. Without going into a lot of detail, what impressed me was the varied factions to developing a product that are available at the Genesee Career Institute. Beside the typical equipment you would imagine, they even have the ability to make large plastic banners, silk screen T-shirts, and more. So you not only have access to developing your idea, but also making signs, banners, and other advertising material. Listen to our speaker this month to hear what they have to offer.

I want to elaborate a little on the benefits for an inventor to have facilities like this to develop an idea. It's not just the lathe or mill in a place that is used by someone making their own proto-type. It's also the networking with those folks at these facilities that give you an opportunity to get "fresh eyes" on what you are developing. Granted, most of the time you will want to have a provisional application or at least a non-disclosure signed before working there, but the feedback can be priceless. We always talk of bouncing an idea off someone, but these types of places allow you to get the feedback of a novice, the person who has no idea what you are working on. This can be a big help in determining how you will design your product or how you will market it. To me, these places are just as important as going to inventor expositions or trade shows to see how products are presented. It just goes with the notion often said, "you don't know what you don't know". Probably no greater mental kick in the gut is to work out a design and package and then go to a tradeshow and see a more unique or simpler way to present your product. Yes, I am also pushing our Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo next month, but I honestly feel you can get no greater information on all the aspects of developing your invention than to see how the experts have done it. The very purpose of Inventors Groups is to network and get feedback on how to do things the right way, so let's network with our guest speaker this month and then plan on attending our expo in Lansing next month.

Remember to have fun with your invention!