



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, September 14, 2017 - 7:00 pm

#9

Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

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Upcoming Events:

- MiQuest September 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 – Sept 15th & 16th

September Agenda:

- report on activities of the e-team
- Finalize those attending the MIC Expo in East Lansing
- Discussion on formalizing our agenda at meetings
- Guest Speaker – Mike Ball, author “How to launch and build a business so it will sell”.
- Cookies & Coffee
- Networking

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

Minutes of August Meeting:

- We discussed the Group admission for MIC Expo in Lansing in September and discount accommodations available at local hotels
- 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 Michael covered what GCI could do to help inventors develop their product and advertising. Students develop ideas, working with local businesses and companies and present their final products for display.
- Cookies & Coffee
- Further discussion on meeting agenda outline
- 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

This month I would be amiss to not cover the subject of getting expert help with your invention. I am so excited about what the Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo is offering to inventors this year, that I want to lay the groundwork on what inventors should be looking for when they go. So many times I have stressed to inventors to do what they can themselves, as they develop their idea, but “hire” what they can’t do. Now, a big part of the “can’t do” is making sure you do things the best way possible. As an example, a lot a people can make up a brochure to show what they’re selling, but can a lot of people use the right words, pictures, colors, etc. to attract the potential customer with that brochure? Another example, and more important, is manufacturing. Do people who are not in the manufacturing industry really have the expertise to determine what material their product should be made from? Should it be made out of steel, plastic, a composite, or a combination of two? Then, if you determine what material, what type of steel, or what family of plastic or composite? Also, you need to know how it will be manufactured. Will you need a mold or a die, or will it be a stamping process, etc. So at an early stage consult a potential manufacturer so you can get a good idea of what the manufacturing costs will be. You will need this to determine your price point when comparing to your potential selling price.

A phrase I have used considerably throughout the years is “jack of all trades, master of nothing”; most often as a joke, but at times seriously. If you plan on developing your idea yourself, at least attend the MIC Expo to touch hands with the “masters” in the areas you have little expertise in. As they say, “you don’t know what you don’t know”, so talk to those who do know. List the steps you don’t have enough knowledge in and seek out those experts at the expo.

Remember to have fun with your invention!