



EDISON INVENTORS Association

Volume 19, Number 1

January 2011

January 2011 Regular Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 @
7 PM - Edison-Ford Estates

Main Program:

“David Day”

UF Director of Technology Licensing

Future Program; February 2011

“Business Plans”

Bruce Prezzavento

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 2011
@ 7 PM

Perkins Restaurant Just S. of Crystal Drive
on Hwy. 41

Members welcome to network.

Edison Quote of the Month:

“Vision without Execution is Hallucination”

[Newsletter Highlights](#)

Check out the revised Inventor’s Websites,
Newsletters, & Trade Shows

Edison Inventors Association PO Box 07398, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

www.edisoninventors.org

Mission Statement

A non profit, educational organization with goals to promote creativity and entrepreneurial success in our schools and community. We are a diversified group of people sharing time, information, experiences and resources to this effect.

Attending a Meeting?

The doors open by 6:15 p.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 7p.m. In respect to our speakers please arrive on time and give them your full attention. There is time before the meeting and at the end of the meeting to network.

The Edison-Ford Winter Estates parking area will only be accessible from the East entrance. The McGregor Blvd gates will be closed for security purposes.

Directions off Hwy 41: At the Edison Ave traffic light, go west onto Cortes Blvd. Go past Euclid Ave. and veer right onto Monte Vista Street. Take Monte Vista to the very end crossing over, Harvard Road. You have arrived!

Directions off McGregor Blvd: Proceed to Larchmont Ave. on the north border of the Edison-Ford Estates property. Turn right on to Larchmont and the next right turn on Harvard Rd. Watch closely for the Estate signs on the right side of this road. Private homes border this drive or, go to www.googlemaps.com and type in, Monte Vista Street, Fort Myers, FL

EIA Phone (239)275-4332, OFFICERS,

President - Joseph Gross
grossrdlab@yahoo.com
Exec VP - Tom Kershaw
Secretary- Terri Lucree
Treasurer -Liz Gross

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WEBMASTER Jeff Abbott

Jeffrey_abbott@kineticthoughts.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 12/31/10
General Account \$ 6,286.72
Bernard A. Cousino Memorial Fund \$4,603.72

DISCLAIMER

Information is offered in an open forum for discussion. Opinions expressed may not represent the views of the Edison Inventors Association, Inc. The Association does not claim to endorse any advertisement or product unless specifically stated.

Publishing Information

All articles and paid ads must be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month to be included in the following month's e-letter. All information will be reviewed prior to publication and may appear as time and space permit. Reprints must be accompanied by proper credits to be considered for this e-letter.

Submit articles/ads to:
Edison Inventors Association
C/O Mike Kirby
P.O. Box 07398, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Or e-mail mikekirby07@gmail.com

Do you provide a service to inventors? Advertise in the EIA E-Newsletter and help the association provide more opportunities to inventors.

2010 Advertising Rates
Business one month 6 mo 1 yr
Card \$15 \$60 \$90
¼ page \$25 \$120 \$180
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NEW

A one line complementary listing is being provided to all member service providers in good standing, as a service to our members.

Message from the President:

Happy New Year Fellow Inventors,
A new year brings about the opportunity for a fresh start, and also a reflection back of the accomplishments of the past year. The team here at the EIA have accomplished many of the goals we set at the start of 2010, We have increased paid membership, established several inventor assistance grant programs, tailored our monthly meetings to give inventors more of the kind of information they need to become successful, and one goal reached that is most satisfying for me, are comments from members who tell me that, they are feeling a new excitement, and electricity in the air at the meetings.

2011 will bring many more improvements to your association. We have secured two new grants for members, the first one, a Business Plan writing assistance grant, and the second, a Prototype building grant. These grants are to be awarded to members who submit an application to the EIA, and who are selected by our grant committee. We are also still pursuing financial grants to the EIA from major Foundations. These grants would allow the EIA to set up financial assistance programs for inventors. I will keep you informed of our progress. January 29th brings the Young Inventors and Science Fair to Fort Myers. Your EIA is a sponsor, and we need people to judge the young inventors. It is a very enjoyable and satisfying experience, and I would never miss it. Email Gary Nelson to sign up: drghn@aol.com

I look forward to our shared inventing journey... Joe Gross

Share your thoughts with the President:
grossrdlab@yahoo.com

NEW * COMPLEMENTARY * NEW

INVENTORS SERVICE PROVIDERS LISTINGS

Disclaimer: The EIA does not endorse or approve any service provider listed in this, or any EIA publication. This List is provided as a service to our members, and as a courtesy for our service providers. All contracts and service agreements are between the members and the service providers exclusively. This list is for information & educational purposes only. The Edison Inventors Association Inc. shall be held harmless shall any dispute arise between a member and a service provider.

In alphabetical order by last name:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email & Website</i>
<i>Wojciech Beldycki</i>	<i>Duracon</i>	<i>Prototypes, Precision Machining</i>	<i>(941) 486-0565</i>	<i>voytek@duraconinc.com</i>
<i>James Cardle</i>	<i>C Patent Law</i>	<i>Patent Attorney</i>	<i>(218) 828-2063</i>	<i>james@cpatentlaw.com</i>
<i>Joe & Liz Gross</i>	<i>Gross R & D Laboratory</i>	<i>Prototypes & Fabrication Services</i>	<i>(239) 292-0819</i>	<i>grossrdlab@yahoo.com</i>
<i>Tom Kershaw</i>	<i>Inventor in Paradise</i>	<i>Inventors Services</i>	<i>(239) 542-1274</i>	<i>tom@inventor-entrepreneur.com</i>
<i>Dennis LaPointe</i>	<i>LaPointe Law Group</i>	<i>Patent Attorney</i>	<i>(727) 943-7072</i>	<i>dlapointe@lapointelaw.com</i>
<i>Edward Livingston</i>	<i>The Livingston Firm</i>	<i>Patent Attorney</i>	<i>(239) 262-8502</i>	<i>eml@thelivingstonfirm.com</i>
<i>Brian Loeffler</i>	<i>The Livingston Firm</i>	<i>Patent Attorney</i>	<i>(239) 262-8502</i>	<i>bcl@thelivingstonfirm.com</i>
<i>Bill McHenry</i>	<i>Entrepreneur Sales & Marketing</i>	<i>Sales & Marketing</i>	<i>(847) 462-8938</i>	<i>bmchenry@entrepreneursales.com</i>
<i>Bruce Prezzavento</i>	<i>Sibironics</i>	<i>Inventors Services</i>	<i>(239) 334-3282</i>	<i>prezz@sibironoics.com</i>
<i>Dan Regelski</i>	<i>Small Business Development Center</i>	<i>Director, SBDC</i>	<i>(239) 225-4220</i>	
<i>Ron Sargent</i>	<i>Ideation Institute</i>	<i>Mechanical Engineer, CAD Design</i>	<i>(239) 209-5070</i>	<i>ron@ideationinstitute.com</i>
<i>Werner Schroeder</i>		<i>Patent Agent</i>	<i>(239) 592-5843</i>	<i>schrdwer@aol.com</i>
<i>David Silver</i>	<i>The Computer Guy</i>	<i>Computer Service</i>	<i>(239) 768-1600</i>	<i>trythecomputerguy@gmail.com</i>
<i>Catherine Solich</i>	<i>Sundown Products</i>	<i>Inventors Services</i>	<i>(239) 574-4219</i>	<i>sundownproducts@aol.com</i>
<i>Tom Whiteside</i>	<i>Mind's Eye Graphics</i>	<i>3-D CAD Design</i>	<i>(239) 656-4674</i>	<i>tom4777@comcast.net</i>
<i>Jon Zook</i>	<i>J Z Research</i>	<i>Mechanical Engineer</i>	<i>(239) 464-3220</i>	<i>drzook@embarqmail.com</i>

INVENTOR WEBSITES – NEWSLETTERS MAGAZINES

Links to Websites Important to Inventors

www.uspto.gov - The United States Patent & Trademark Office, patent info & searches
www.uia.org – United Inventors Association – The most respected and best all around site for inventors
www.Inventors.about.com – One of the first sites for inventors
www.inventored.org – online discussion forum & list of scams and invention promotion companies caution lists.
www.freepatentsonline.com – patent searches
www.google.com/patents - patent searches

Commercial Invention Sites

www.edisonnation.com – The best product search site, blogs and forums site we know of
www.inventright.com – Steven Key's site, newsletter, invention review & exposure
www.planeteureka.org – A place to evaluate & post your invention, sponsored by a Federal Grant
www.inventbay.com – On line inventor community, post your invention, forum,

Journals & Magazines

www.inventorsdigest.com – The defacto magazine for inventors today

TELEVISION SHOWS – RADIO – FLORIDA INVENTOR GROUPS

Television

Pitchmen 2 – January 18, 7:00pm
Everyday Edison's – www.everydayedisons.com – A television series designed to pick inventions and complete them, they have a newsletter and casting calls. Now casting for season 4
The Big Idea w/ Jonny Deutsch – On hold since 2008
Shark Tank – On hold for 2011

Internet Radio & Podcasts

www.gotinvention.com – Weekly at 8pm on Thurs

Florida Inventor Groups

Edison Inventor's Association
www.edisoninventors.org – Our own helpful website
Inventor's Society of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL <http://www.inventorssociety.net/>
Inventors Council of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Website coming soon
drdavidflinchbaugh@bellsouth.net
Space Coast Inventors Guild, Melbourne, FL Website coming soon angelsnr@cfl.rr.com
Tampa Bay Inventors Council, Largo, FL www.tbic.us

Online Trade Shows

Trade Show News Network Online – www.tsnn.com - An online search engine for all trade shows, very slick, try it out
Houston Inventor's Association - www.inventors.org - Online Tradeshow to list your invention for potential licensees
Invention Convention Trade Show - www.inventionconnection.com - Online Tradeshow to list your invention for potential licensees

Brick & Mortar Trade Shows

Consumer Electronics Trade Show – www.cesweb.org - Jan 6-9 Las Vegas, NV,
Inventors Society of South FL Annual Inventors Expo – www.inventorssociety.net - Feb 12, West Palm Bch, FL,
International Home & Housewares Show – www.housewares.org – Mar 6-8 Chicago, IL
Geneva Invention Trade Show - www.inventions-geneva.ch - April 6-10 Geneva SW Marketplace for inventions
National Hardware Show – www.nationalhardwareshow.com May 10-12 Las Vegas, NV,
Inpex – www.inpex.com – June 14-17, Monroeville, PA, All inventions
Yankee Invention Exposition - www.yankeeinventionexpo.org – cancelled 2009 & 2010, 2011?

Current Product Searches

Edison Nation Product Searches - www.edisonnation.com - Looking for a wide variety of inventions **WARNING: UNLIKE OTHER COMPANIES, EDISON NATION ONLY PAYS ROYALTIES ONCE A YEAR IN DECEMBER!!!**

Apps for the Army - <http://armylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2009/09/apps-for-the-army-competition/>

The U.S. Army is reaching out to increase its technology applications-and they need your help. Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, recently announced an “Apps for the Army” competition for the .mil community. Sorenson seeks to harness the untapped potential of the .mil community and reduce the time it takes to develop new technology for the Army.

L Prize US Dept of Energy – <http://www.lightingprize.org/>

The L Prize competition will substantially accelerate America's shift from inefficient, dated lighting products to innovative, high-performance products. Just as Thomas Edison transformed illumination over a century ago, the L Prize will drive innovation and market adoption. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the L Prize is the first government-sponsored technology competition designed to spur lighting manufacturers to develop high-quality, high-efficiency solid-state lighting products to replace the common light bulb.

Deadline: None – The competition will remain open until a winner is chosen.

Business Resources

Florida Small Business Development Center Network - www.sbdcseminars.org Upcoming business seminars and workshops in your community on Startup, Basics, Financing, Managing, Marketing, Sales, Accounting, Tax Planning, & Government Contracts

FGCU Regional Economic Indicators www.floridaedo.com/pdf_folder/Regional_EIR_Current.pdf

The Inventor Frame of Mind

By Mike Kirby

The Edison Inventor's Newsletter is not filled with numerous articles. What we do have are lots of references. At the very front of our newsletter we have our local service providers. You will find a variety of services provided by our members. Then you'll see as many relevant websites, TV shows, magazines, newsletters, internet radio or now, podcast sites, other inventor groups, trade shows, and product searches as possible. In this issue I have spent time to expand and update all of these categories so you can efficiently have these resources at your fingertips. As with any

discipline you need to think, breath and eat the subject to become an expert. And being an expert is what we want to portray as inventors. When we make an improvement or develop something new, and prepare so sell it, we need to:

1. Make sure it's not already on the market, (look in retail stores, catalogs, or online)
2. Do a preliminary patent search, (three good patent search websites listed above)
3. Create a preliminary design on paper (mechanical engineers listed above)
4. Get a prototype made (we have service providers in our own society to help, also listed above)
5. Get a regular or provisional patent, if necessary, (patent providers listed above)
6. Determine the cost of production

Once you have completed these steps your confidence will improve and you can begin to license, manufacture, market and sell your invention. To get through these steps you need to get into "The Inventor Frame of Mind". To get into this frame of mind you now have motivators such as our own, Edison Inventor's Society monthly meeting, websites, TV shows, an inventor magazine, newsletters, podcasts, both virtual & brick & mortar trade shows and product searches. To start, pick and choose which of the above resources you want to pursue then dedicate time for your selections, i.e. once a day, every other day, once a week, etc. Then begin to work on steps 1-6. Once you have your prototype, drawings, patents (if necessary), costs of production, then you can begin to solicit your invention to brick & mortar or online trade shows, product searches, investors or go to companies directly. Most companies are actively looking for new products and do have a new products division. I know, I am actively soliciting my own invention and found either telephone numbers or email addresses for each of the companies I was looking for (if they were close by, I'd drive there). Once a company is interested, you can get the help of a licensing agent, patent attorney or a consultant to help you seal the deal. Since most of us have a full time job, inventing is usually a part time job. To stay motivated and finish what you start, get into the "Inventor Frame of Mind".



PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS

Provisional patent applications can be a useful tool when used under the right circumstances, however provisional patent applications can also be a damaging tool when used by inventors who do not fully understand patent law.

Since June 8, 1995, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has offered inventors the option of filing a provisional patent application instead of filing a conventional patent application, also referred to as a "nonprovisional" patent application. The provisional patent application was designed to provide a lower-cost first patent filing that is not subject to some of the formal requirements of a nonprovisional patent application. Filing a provisional application gives an inventor up to one year within which to file a nonprovisional application which claims priority (i.e., retroactive protection) to the filing date of the provisional application. This one year period provides an inventor additional time to evaluate and perfect his or her invention. For example, an inventor may not have the structure of his or her invention in final form and may want to protect what the inventor has at that time by filing a provisional patent application. This one year period also provides an inventor additional time to study the marketplace to see if there is any demand for the invention as well as time to find investors and raise money. However, an

important factor to keep in mind is that provisional applications are never examined by the USPTO and they become automatically abandoned after one year.

One circumstance that warrants filing a provisional patent application is when time is of the essence. For example, U.S. patent law requires any patent application to be filed within one year of any public disclosure or offer for sale of an invention or else all patent rights are lost forever. If a one year statutory bar deadline is coming near, a provisional application can be a useful tool because the requirements and format of provisional applications are relaxed as compared to nonprovisional applications. For instance, a provisional application does not require formal drawings or claims. Thus, an applicant can prepare a provisional application more quickly than a nonprovisional application. However, there is always a significant risk that some necessary detail may not be included or disclosed in the provisional application especially if it is not prepared by a patent attorney.

One of the main drawbacks of provisional patent applications is that they are often prepared in an effort to save money by inventors or by non-patent attorneys who do not understand patent law. Therefore, the majority of provisional applications are not properly drafted and do not properly disclose and describe inventions, thus risking the legitimacy of a priority claim and patent protection altogether. In order to be effective, a provisional application should include the same level of detail with respect to an invention as in a regular nonprovisional application. If the provisional application does not provide adequate disclosure to support the invention claimed in a nonprovisional application, then the inventor could lose his or her patent rights.

Another drawback of provisional patent applications is that filing a provisional application automatically sets deadlines for filing nonprovisional and foreign patent applications. As mentioned above, if a corresponding nonprovisional application claiming benefit of a provisional is filed, it must be filed within one year of the filing date of the provisional application. In addition, to claim priority based on a provisional application, any corresponding foreign applications must also be filed within that same year. Therefore, an inventor will be faced with the costs of preparing and filing both a nonprovisional U.S. application and a foreign application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty at the same time.

An even further drawback is that provisional applications are never examined and therefore, do not provide any enforceable rights. In fact, filing a provisional application actually delays the issuance of a patent by up to a year. Therefore, if an inventor's goal is to get patent protection as soon as possible, filing a provisional application will only delay that goal.

CONCLUSION

While there are certain circumstances that warrant filing a provisional patent application, saving money should never be one of them. If a provisional application is not prepared and drafted properly in order to provide adequate disclosure to support a later filed nonprovisional application, then the inventor will ultimately lose his or her patent rights. Therefore, unless circumstances absolutely dictate otherwise, it is in the inventor's best interest to file a nonprovisional patent application over a provisional patent application.

The Livingston Firm specializes in all areas of intellectual property law including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, franchising, litigation and business law. As the largest full-service intellectual property law firm in Southwest Florida with over forty years of combined experience, The Livingston Firm can be there to assist you from beginning to end with protecting your ideas and inventions and getting those ideas and inventions to market.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of Protecting Your Creativity. If you or your clients are in need of our services then please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Edward M. Livingston, Esq., U.S. Registered Patent Attorney, Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law
Erica L. Loeffler, Esq.
Bryan L. Loeffler, Esq., U.S. Registered Patent Attorney

The information contained in this newsletter is intended to convey general information. It should not be construed as legal advice or opinion. It is not an offer to represent you, nor is it intended to create an attorney-client relationship.

The Livingston Firm 963 Trail Terrace Drive Naples, FL 34103 239-262-8502 www.thelivingstonfirm.com
tlf@thelivingstonfirm.com With offices in Fort Myers

Please Support our Troops!
“It is because of them, that we are free”