

Tennessee Inventors Meeting
for Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 10 AM.
Location- The 2020 Building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park.
Visitors are always welcome.

Meeting notes by Tom Kulaga, TIA Recording Secretary
Upcoming TIA Meeting on May 17, 2008

Upcoming TIA Meeting on June 21, 2008

Tim and Susan Lee are the featured speakers for the June TIA meeting. They are magazine editors that are familiar with marketing through magazine articles, reviews, and advertisements. They will also speak on press releases: why they are valuable, how to write one, and what to do with it after it is written.

Following Tim and Susan's presentation and a short break, AJ Beal will hold a discussion on the progress of the Seminar preparations. AJ will give an update of the status and identify areas where additional assistance would be helpful. We are looking for volunteers to help with preparation and also to work the seminar.

Meeting Notes from May 17, 2008 Meeting

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker did not show up. But, **Joe Martin**, our resourceful President, kept things moving.

Joe kicked off the meeting by having the visitors introduce themselves. One visitor, **Craig Weaver**, brought a prototype of his patented invention to the meeting and volunteered to make a presentation about it.

Craig's invention is called the Lift Walker. His patent issued April 29, 2008, and he said that he has another one pending at the Patent and Trademark Office. He also has pending applications in various foreign countries, including Australia, Canada, China, and Europe.

With the help of member Holly Shaw, Craig demonstrated how his invention works. Craig described how he had the prototype made. He also passed around marketing information that showed a picture of the prototype that he was demonstrating.

Craig said his background is marketing. He performed a market survey to help establish a suitable price point for adding his invention to walkers. Craig was very enthusiastic about his invention and said he hopes to sell the patents to one of the big players in the industry. Craig asked the group for suggestions and there was a lively give-and-take period.

After Craig's presentation, **Joe Martin** said that he hoped Tim and Susan Lee will be the speakers for next month. The Lee have experience as magazine editors.

AJ Beal gave an update on the planning for the Seminar coming up on August 16, 2008. He is seeking help with obtaining vendors who wish have a table at the Seminar.

Everyday Edisons is having a web-based casting call on June 2, 2008. See <<http://www.everydayedisons.com/castingCalls.html>>. The casting call will last

several days and may be the last opportunity for anyone to participate in Season 3 of Everyday Edisons.

Upcoming Seminar Information “Opportunities for Innovation in East Tennessee”

Planning for the Seminar on August 16, 2008, is proceeding. Please check the website at <www.TnInventors.org/events/2008-seminar.html> for the latest updated information.

We will be holding the Seminar at Tech2020, the same place where we have the monthly meetings. AJ Beal is working on the floor plan and seating arrangement. We have seating for 80 people, so get the word out. We want every seat filled!

Anne Alexeff is working on what will be for lunch at the Seminar. She has narrowed it down to two choices: Judy Dodd Catering and Subway Sandwiches. Anne is also working on getting the Seminar brochure printed.

Session Schedule: The following is the tentative schedule for the Seminar. If anyone has any suggestions or recommendations, your input would be welcome.

Time	Event
8:30-9:00 am	Registration with coffee, danish
9:00-9:05	Welcome
9:05-10:10	<i>Marketing Workshop</i> , presented by Joe Martin
10:10-10:30	Break, more coffee, mingle
10:30-11:40	<i>One Successful Inventor</i> , featuring our keynote speaker, Ralph Gonzales
11:40-1:00 pm	Lunch break, mingle, vendors, exhibits, etc. Lunch will be provided for those who pre-register for the full day Seminar.
1:00-2:10	<i>Business Planning Workshop</i> , presented by Bruce Hayes, Tennessee Small Business Development Centers
2:10-2:30	Break, mingle, vendors, exhibits, etc
2:30-3:40	<i>Patents for Inventors</i> , Speaker to be announced
3:40	Closing comments

Vendors: We have two vendors confirmed: Fred Dyer and Knox Patents. Anyone who knows a company that has a product or service that would be of interest to inventors is invited to contact AJ.

Inventor Exhibits: Any inventors that wish to exhibit their invention are invited to contact AJ. This is a great opportunity to showcase your invention. We hope to have the media in attendance at the Seminar, so there is a good chance for some free publicity and marketing.

Volunteers: We need volunteers to help with the Seminar. In particular, we need people to help set up before the Seminar starts, to be greeters at the door, to work the registration table, to serve the box lunches and drinks, and to clean up afterwards.

Please let AJ know at the June meeting if you will be available to help out and what times you will be available to help.

We also need volunteers to identify and contact organizations that have members who may be interested in attending the Seminar. Anyone who belongs to or is associated with a technology group, for example, IEEE and ASME, please feel free to contact the organization and ask them to announce the Seminar to their members.

Board Meeting: There will be a TIA Board Meeting in the conference room of Tom Kulaga's workplace at Cedar Bluff in Knoxville. The address is 9111 Cross Park Dr., Bldg. D, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37923. The Date is Wednesday, June 4 at 6:00 PM.