

## Minutes

March 20, 2008

Present: 21

Charles McDonald opened the meeting at 6:30, welcomed the group and read announcements. He explained that Chad Collins would not be in attendance and that he had prepared a short program to share his knowledge of plastic manufacturing and useful online resources. He distributed handouts listing the websites.

After the discussion on plastic manufacturing and useful websites, the topic changed to patents. Most of the people present were new to the organization and new to the patenting process, so their conversation focused on patent searches and the process of getting patents. Elizabeth Danley of the Arkansas State Library spoke about the research process, recommended the book "Patent it Yourself" by David Pressman, and volunteered to mail patent packets to all attending the meeting. McDonald and Candyce Chevalier explained the process of applying for patents and that the topic has been discussed at length during prior meetings. It was suggested that the group create a newsletter and/or put discussion topics and general resource information on the website so all can have access when they miss meetings. General discussion ensued.

Chad Collins arrived before dismissal and discussed how he has proceeded with patenting his projects. "It depends on the product" whether he applies for a patent or not and what type of patent. The design patent is more affordable and easier to get, the holder can use the "Patent Pending" phrase, but it offers the lowest level of protection. The provisional patent is temporary and more expensive. The highest level of protection is the utility patent, but it is the most expensive and complicated of the processes. He recommends using an attorney when seeking provisional and utility patents.

Chad closed the meeting at 8:30 and reminded everyone of the next meeting date and to visit the website for updates.

Next Mtg: Thurs, Mar 15 – same time & place. See website for details.



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## Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company Sponsors the United Inventors Association

**Kansas City, MO (Feb. 1, 2008)** - The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company announced that it has become a major sponsor of the United Inventors Association.

Faultless is a consumer goods marketer that offers both internally developed and licensed products under brands such as: Garden Weasel®, Garden Claw®, Faultless®, Bon Ami®, and other brands.

Faultless Starch/Bon Ami considers the UIA to be the world's most respected inventor organization and Faultless is proud to be a part of what the UIA is doing on behalf of the independent inventor.

Like the UIA, Faultless believes in mutually beneficial relationships, and the ethical treatment of independent inventors. When working with Faultless, there are no fees up front, in the middle or in the end at all; period. If your product is a great fit for Faultless and determined ideal for them to market and commercialize, then a licensing agreement will be arranged. They invite you to [Submit Your Product/Invention](#).

Faultless seeks new CONSUMER PRODUCTS for mass retail distribution. They are interested in a full variety of products that can create a significant market impact in a particular product category; or create a new category of its own.

Faultless has sold millions of inventions such as the [Garden Weasel](#) , [Garden Claw](#) and [Weed Popper](#) along with many other new products. They look to continue to offer their inventor partners a gateway to the mass market. Through their [Faultless Inventors](#) site and their [Inventor Contests](#), they seek dynamic new inventions.

The [Faultless Starch / Bon Ami Co.](#), an international consumer products company, is seeking new inventor partnerships. Faultless has sold consumer products since 1887 and their products are sold in the United States and internationally in a variety of channels from mass merchandise to gift stores and the internet. With their vast distribution network and their established relationships, they ship products by the truckload to the major chain stores all across the United States. They work directly with the store buyers to put their products and your new products on the shelf.

Faultless distributes products in many categories. These categories include Cleaning, Garment Care, Gifts, Hardware, Home Improvement, House Wares, Automotive, Outdoor Living and Lawn and Garden consumer products. Faultless does not market items such as Apparel, Industrial, Food & Drug or other products with significant environmental or product liability risks.

Please visit [www.FaultlessInventors.com](http://www.FaultlessInventors.com)



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## Latest News

### United Inventors Association

999 Lehigh Station Road  
Henrietta, NY 14467-9311  
Phone: (585) 359-9310 Fax: (585) 359-1132

## Federal Trade Commission Protecting America's Consumers



### FTC Charges Invention Promotion Swindlers with Contempt

*Scam Operation Took More Than \$60 Million from 17,000 Consumers*

The Federal Trade Commission has filed a civil contempt action against four individuals and eight business entities for allegedly operating a fraudulent invention promotion business in violation of a court order.

The individuals were employed by International Product Design Inc., which the FTC charged with fraudulent business practices in 1997. A court order issued in 1998 prohibited Julian Gumpel, Darrell Mormando, and Greg Wilson from deceptively marketing invention promotion services, but Gumpel later revived the same scam under the name, "Patent and Trademark Institute of America" (PTI).

For a fee of \$895 to \$1,295, PTI promised to evaluate the marketability and patentability of inventors' ideas, but its evaluations were almost always positive and were not meaningful, according to the FTC. For a fee of \$5,000 to \$45,000, PTI's clients were offered legal protection and assistance to obtain commercial licenses for their inventions. They also were told that PTI would help them earn substantial royalties from their inventions, but PTI did not help consumers license their inventions, and clients did not earn royalties.

The FTC alleges that PTI's business practices violated the court order, which prohibited the defendants from falsely promising to evaluate invention ideas and falsely claiming that consumers would profit financially if they bought PTI's invention promotion services. The FTC also alleges that PTI never sent consumers the "Affirmative Disclosure" form required by the order; the form should have disclosed PTI's non-existent track record in bringing inventions to market.

On January 8, 2007, the Commission initiated contempt proceedings against Gumpel and eight corporate entities under his control: Technical Lithographers Inc., d/b/a Patent and Trademark Institute of America (PTI), United Licensing Corporation, International Patent Advisors Inc., Datatech Consulting Inc., International Product Marketing Inc., Unicorp Consulting Inc., d/b/a/ UNI Corp. Inc, Azure Communications Inc., and London Communications Inc.

On January 10, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued an order placing PTI in court receivership pending the outcome of the contempt litigation. According to a report prepared by the receiver, PTI has taken approximately \$60 million from more than 17,000 consumers since 2000 but could not identify a single successful consumer.

On March 9, the court issued an order to show cause why Michael Fleisher, Wilson, and Mormando, a/k/a Darrell Johnson, should not also be held in contempt for violating the court order issued in 1998. The FTC alleges that they knew about and were subject to the court order, but repeatedly violated it in their roles as managers and salesman for PTI. A hearing on the FTC's charges against all of the defendants is scheduled for April 30, 2007.

The FTC has established a phone line for consumers who may have been harmed by PTI's conduct. Consumers may call 202-326-2926 for more information.

**Chad & Tina Collins**

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**From:** Carol Oldenburg [uiausa@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 11:11 AM  
**To:** chad@collinsconsultinginc.com  
**Subject:** Inventor's Spotlight Promotion from United Inventors Association



**UNITED INVENTORS ASSOCIATION**

**Sponsor for the Inventor's Spotlight area**

at the 63rd National Hardware Show in Las Vegas



## **90 Ace Hardware Stores Want Inventors' products!!!**

- With more than \$250 million in annual sales revenue!
- Operating as the largest ACE dealer!
- Nearly 90 units and owning its own distribution center!

Ace Hardware is conducting face-to-face meetings during  
the  
National Hardware Show® to find New Vendors!

**Register for an Inventor's booth** in the UIA Inventors Spotlight area and a chance to present to retailers, go to:

<http://www.uiausa.org/uploads/inventor2008NationalHardwareShow.pdf>

**For more information about the show** go to:

<http://www.nationalhardwareshow.com>

Other leading retailers have also confirmed Open-to-Buy Days and will be running one-on-one meetings with exhibiting vendors EXCLUSIVELY of the 2008 National Hardware Show®

Carol A. Oldenburg, Administrator  
United Inventors Association

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## Chad & Tina Collins

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**From:** David Dunning [eagle-innovations@tds.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** info@arkansasinvents.org  
**Subject:** New Products Wanted

Greetings from the field,

As a past president of New Hampshire Inventors Assoc., I wish your group well. Ours is defunct because we kept running out of people willing to lead it. I have one patent and one scam experience; I'm sure we have other things in common.

As a Manufacturing Engineer with a career in industrial marketing, I'm looking for new industrial or commercial products to license, especially tools. This e-mail is not an "ad for services" as the UIA forbids, rather I'm the guy your members may be searching for. I want to manufacture and market their products and pay them a generous royalty.

Please view my site [www.eagle-innovationsllc.com](http://www.eagle-innovationsllc.com) , bio included, and refer your members to it, if it applies. Thank you very much.

David Dunning  
Tel: 603-526-6939  
New Hampshire