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## Streamlined expertise through custodial management collaboration

**Holland, OHIO** – 85 registrants representing custodians from 8 local schools attended an inaugural training in-service day at Springfield High School on Tuesday, June 15 hosted by the Maumee Valley Operations Managers Association (MVOMA).

“The purpose of the group is to create a streamlined, standardization of custodians in public environments, starting with the local schools of Northwest Ohio,” promotes Rick Haskins, Maintenance and Custodial Supervisor for Springfield High School and management member of MVOMA. “Our goal is to provide balanced training by understanding what we’ve done, where we are now, and where we’re going within this industry in order to better our schools and public facilities.”

Arnold Lewandowsky, Maintenance and Custodial Supervisor for Perrysburg Schools, helped to formulate the MVOMA for its practicality. “Since we’ve begun streamlining our products and processes, our inventory levels are more controlled, our bid sheets are contained to four, and the cost of our purchasing has lowered.” With expenses being cut in many school districts, reforming the number of products and services utilized by each facility can provide a sense of relief.

Six different janitorial vendors presented Kaivac, Host, and Nobles electronic cleaning systems throughout the training day as managers of the MVOMA offered updated training to the registrants. Vendors in attendance included Jan San Specialty Products & KiaVac machines, Gordon Foods, Virtual Technologies, Canberra Corporation, and Friends Business Source.

Friends Business Source boasts an in-house brand of EZ 2 CLEAN chemicals, as well as commercial brands. Along with their product offerings, a staff of janitorial experts offers 96 years of combined experience to help with any need that may arise in the janitorial and sanitary maintenance specialties. “We’ve offered training in years prior but we were truly looking for a way to make an impact,” adds Fred Fletcher, Transportation and Distribution Manager for Friends.

Topics of discussion throughout the targeted training day came from years of proficiency from vendors like the Canberra Corporation. Sean Melvin, a Manufacturer’s Sales Representative for Canberra, states that “Friends asked us to provide our industry expertise to the MVOMA registrants attending the event, and we were pleased to showcase our product and procedural knowledge through demonstrations. We are always glad to be of help to schools around our community.”

“As an entry level participant, this training day has been enlightening,” provided Eric Miklovich, a registrant. “The information is comparable in expertise to other training I have undergone, and I have remained engaged throughout the demonstrations offered.”

Lewandowsky plans for growth and development of the training program, as well as a merging of collective skills. “As our program expands, we will see more than 8 schools within our organization participate in our training days, as the incentive is that they do not have to host their own. The concept will gain precedence as we encourage more superintendant leadership through marketing and PR.”

Haskins is determined to gain prominence and value within the community through progress. “Although MVOMA is a young organization, moving forward we hope to evaluate our presentation, select our leaders, and bid through standardization. The greatest result of this consolidated training will be the fellowship gained by the individuals present, as they begin to feel more appreciated and knowledgeable amongst experts in our field.”

Friends Business Source is one of Ohio’s largest independently owned office supply dealers. For over 45 years, Friends has been partnering with companies throughout Ohio and into southeastern Michigan to maintain the best service and supply of office related products. They specialize in office supplies, office furniture, business machines, educational services, coffee-trend supplies, promotional products and janitorial supplies. As a single source supplier, Friends truly has everything for people at work.

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Ashley Barger, Direct Marketing Manager  
Friends Business Source  
2300 Bright Road  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
ashley@friendsoffice.com

Betsy Hughes, Vice President of Sales  
Friends Business Source  
2300 Bright Road  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
betsy@friendsoffice.com

Arnold Lewandowsky, Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor  
Perrysburg Schools  
419-872-8840  
alewandowsky@perrysburgschools.net

Rick Haskins, Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor  
Springfield High School  
419-867-5609  
rickhaskins@slsmaail.net



**Corporate Headquarters**  
2300 Bright Road  
Findlay, OH 45840  
**Cleveland**  
4199 Kinross Lakes Parkway  
Suite 200  
Richfield, OH 44286  
**Columbus**  
214 Hoff Rd. Suite H  
Westerville, OH 43082  
**Toledo**  
355 Tomahawk Drive  
Maumee, OH 43537  
**Mansfield**  
165 N. Trimble Rd.  
Mansfield, OH 44906

**800.427.1704**

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