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Networking chapters announce merge

By Laura Morkowitz

The New Jersey Executive Networking Group is merging with the Greater Philadelphia Senior Executive Group, and will become a subgroup of the larger organization.

NJENG's membership, in the northern New Jersey and New York areas, gives GPSEG a stronger foothold outside its heavy concentration in the central and southern parts of the state.

Members of NJENG can become a part of GPSEG through an expedited process. The two organizations' combination will allow both to benefit from greater networking opportunities, increased job postings and greater access to mailing lists, according to **Larry Buchwalter**, chairman of NJENG's steering committee.

As it was, GPSEG and NJENG already had a cross-section of membership, said **Dwayne Patterson**, CEO of GPSEG. The combination of the two organizations and their members will provide a great corridor of access from Philadelphia through New York for C-level executives who are looking for job or business opportunities.

"We work on the premise of a pay-it-forward mentality," Patterson said. "You join GPSEG so that you can help others and, in return, you get a lot of support when you need it."

Buchwalter also will serve as board liaison as NJENG becomes a subgroup, GPSEG – New Jersey North. While he hopes all the NJENG members will join the new organization, the likelihood of that is small, considering some don't live in the state any more.

"In order to become a member, they just had to have some New Jersey root, and over time, they have spread out," some across the country, but others just further south in the state. "I think that in and of itself justifies the expansion of the geographic footprint."

E-mail Laura Morkowitz at lmorkowitz@njbiz.com