# Origins of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society

Many years ago, there were two major dental societies in California, both under the umbrella of the American Dental Association, but otherwise unrelated to each other. To the north was the California Dental Association and the other was the Southern California Dental Association. They were divided by the Tehachapi Mountains. The largest by far of the components of the Southern California Dental Association was the Los Angeles County Dental Society. To the north of Los Angeles was the San Fernando Valley. Its dental society was called the Fourth District of the Los Angeles County Dental Society, and it was established in 1937. As the San Fernando Valley grew in numbers and dentists, it became clear that it needed its own organization, equal in footing to the Los Angeles County Dental Society and therefore needed to separate from the Los Angeles County Dental Society, creating its own representatives to the Southern California Dental Association. Since the area was commonly known simply as “The Valley”, the new organization became The Valley Dental Society, and it was established in 1961. Confusion reigned supreme. Other nearby valley areas such as the Antelope Valley, San Gabriel Valley, and the Crescenta Valley felt that was an inappropriate name since they were valleys as well. Consequently, five years later, in 1966, the Valley Dental Society became the San Fernando Valley Dental Society. As the San Fernando Valley grew, so did the surrounding geographic areas to a very large degree, and recently it became increasingly clear that the San Fernando Valley Dental Society encompassed far more than the San Fernando Valley and the name was not truly representative of those rapidly growing adjacent areas. As a result, the San Fernando Valley Dental Society Board of Directors, in February 2022, started discussions to change the name to be more reflective of the area it truly encompasses. After much discussion, the name agreed upon by a large majority of the Board members is the North Los Angeles Dental Society. The organization and its structure will remain the same. Nothing else will change except its name.

Myron (Mike) Bromberg, DDS