

Long Beach Patch

# Southland Alzheimer's Group Severs Ties with National Association

The move to split came after the National Alzheimer's Association's board of directors voted to consolidate all local chapters.

Long Beach, CA

By ALEXANDER NGUYEN (Patch Staff) - January 7, 2016 1:23 pm ET

The Southland chapter of the national Alzheimer's Association announced Thursday that it is seceding, opting to go solo so it can keep more of the money it collects for the benefit of Southland sufferers of the disease.

“As an organization separate from a national entity, Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles will be able to expand upon our ability to provide client- centered, innovative and responsive programs and services that directly meet the needs of our communities,” Susan Galeas, president and CEO of Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles, said in announcing a decision by her group's board of directors.

Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles said it will serve clients in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

“We look forward to a more nimble and creative future that fully encompasses our mission and focuses on care, inspiration and hope. With 100 percent of funding staying local, we will be better able to do more in every area,” Galeas said.

The move to split came after the National Alzheimer's Association's board of directors voted in October to consolidate all local chapters into a single entity controlled from its Chicago headquarters, Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles said in a statement.

With the decision to separate, 100 percent of all money raised by Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles will stay local for care and support, advocacy, and research, the statement said, asserting that prior to the separation, 40 percent of unrestricted donations were sent to the national organization.

Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles added that as a separate organization, it will have greater freedom to partner with major local, national and international cause-related nonprofits, funders and businesses.

“The ability to retain all donated funds and make program decisions that are relevant to the diverse Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside populations were driving factors in our decision to separate from the national organization,” said Mark Liberman, Board Chair of Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles.

“Our Board and Executive staff believe that the growing needs of the communities we serve are best met by separating, rather than consolidating into a single nationally directed group, headquartered far from the individuals and families we have been serving for more than three decades.”

The decision to split follows similar decisions by other large chapters, including New York City, New Jersey, San Diego and Orange County.

More than 10 percent (almost 600,000 people) of Americans living with Alzheimer's or another dementia and their caregivers are in California, according to Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles More than one-third, or 200,000, of Californians affected by Alzheimer's are in Los Angeles County.

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