

New Sheriff...

The 63rd Annual NARFE Tennessee Federation meeting was held April 15 and 16. NARFE National President Ken Thomas attended the entire meeting and spoke to the group both days. He outlined several initiatives underway at the HQ. There is a reorganization/streamlining of the HQ office, upgrading of MOA's with several organizations including Alzheimer's Association and others. They are updating the Website and it's reports software, to be launched in June. Rebranding will take the form of "NARFE Federal Benefits Experts". Apparently this has already proven successful during the government shutdown when legislators were calling NARFE for information. The NARFE logo and brand has not changed since 1947. They are bringing the publication of the magazine in-house to save publication fees. And they are developing an App to get all things NARFE from your smart phone.

On the second day in a Q&A session, he revealed how the HQ office has been operating at a deficit since 2000. We have losses of about \$200,000 annually even though we were told by the past president that were "in the black" around 2016. Staffing at the HQ office is being reviewed for efficiency and accountability. There are 45 employees in the HQ office. The building located in Alexandria, VA is in need of repair and the sale or rental of part of the building is being considered. Mr. Thomas said he WILL get us financially sound. He said that 70% of NARFE's revenues is from membership dues, and membership continues to decline. We have just dipped below 200,000 members nationwide. There will be a continued effort to find additional revenue sources and new initiatives to focus on recruiting.

There is a new sheriff in town!!