

# ALPHABET SOUP:

## SOME ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS YOU MAY HEAR AT COA\* MEETINGS

*\*COA: City of Bloomington Commission on Aging*

Note regarding sources: Most of the descriptions below are based on information from the organization's own website. But for some organizations, their own websites did not provide much historical detail. For their entries, these additional sources were used to fill in the picture: websites of parent or affiliate organizations; government or general-use sites (e.g., Wikipedia); and direct personal experience with the organization.

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A10AA: Area 10 Agency on Aging

The Older Americans Act of 1965 created federal-, state-, and local-level units through which funding for a variety of services supporting seniors is channeled. Our Area 10 Agency, which serves Monroe and Owen counties, is part of that network at the local level. It is a private, nonprofit organization, and it is one of sixteen Agencies on Aging in the state.

<http://area10agency.org/>

AARP: Formerly "American Association of Retired Persons," now officially "AARP, Inc."

Per AARP's official history, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, who was an advocate for "productive aging," formed the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) in 1947 to address the interests of retired teachers and provide for health insurance. In 1958 Andrus opened up NRTA membership to any American age 50 or over, and AARP was born. Today AARP is well-established as a lobbying group, and it has launched several affiliated organizations.

<http://www.aarp.org/>

AAC: Active Aging Coalition

Formed in 2006 by several individuals interested in developing Bloomington's capacity to support its seniors, the Coalition was responsible for lobbying the City to create the Commission on Aging. Its monthly meetings are open to all; they feature a speaker, and Bell Trace provides a free buffet.

<https://sites.google.com/site/activeagingcoalition/>

AAGB: Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington

Formed in 2010 as a response to the demise of our local Arts Council, the AAGB is a membership organization in which artists, arts advocates, and interested citizens work together to promote communication across, and provide support for, all fields of artistic activity.

<http://www.bloomingtonarts.org/>

ACHIEVE: **Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and EnVironmental Change**

Founded in 2008, ACHIEVE is a program developed by a collaboration of the National Association of County and City Health Officials with several other key public health organizations. Only 149 communities across the nation received the training, technical assistance, and grant funding to be designated ACHIEVE communities, and Bloomington / Monroe County was one of them. The partners running our local ACHIEVE activities are the Monroe County YMCA, the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, the Active Living Coalition, and the Indiana State Department of Health. These partners work through committees made up of civic, organizational, and business leaders to develop public health policies and promote needed community change.

<http://www.bmcachieve.org/>

ALC: Active Living Coalition

The Active Living Coalition is a well-organized group that works to “inspire community members to engage in their physical, emotional, social, and environmental health and wellness.” It is similar in structure to the Active Aging Coalition in that it is open to all interested individuals and organizations, and that it holds monthly meetings through which it promotes communication and collaboration. The Commission has participated in its annual ALC Health Fair.

<http://www.activelivingcoalition.org/>

BAC: Bloomington Arts Commission

The BAC was established in 1980, and it is an eleven-member commission. It has developed a Public Arts Master Plan for the City, and it awards grants funded through Percentage for the Arts—a program that sets aside one percent of City capital project budgets for public art.

<https://bloomington.in.gov/bac>

BCFSA: Best Cities for Successful Aging

The Milken Institute launched the BCFSA project with two goals in mind: to make cities work better for older residents, and to ensure that older adults have opportunities to work for their cities. The Institute published its first BCFSA study in 2012, and updated it in 2014. The COA learned about the 2014 study through the 2015 White House Conference, and undertook its own detail-level review of how Bloomington had performed relative to comparable college towns. It presented that review to Mayor Hamilton in January 2016, and requested that he sign the BCFSA Mayor’s Pledge. He did so on March 9, 2016.

<http://successfulaging.milkeninstitute.org/>

- BEAD: Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District
- BEAD is a program of the City's Department of Economic and Sustainable Development. By having downtown Bloomington designated as an Indiana Cultural District at the state level, the BEAD program has worked to enhance collaboration between businesses and the arts to "advance commerce and culture, build community and spur economic development."
- <http://bloomington.in.gov/bead>
- CAF: Creative Aging Festival
- 2016 was the sixth year for this annual community-wide celebration in May, which is Older Americans Month. It is coordinated by the Commission on Aging, but the events are hosted by a wide range of local organizations in venues across both town and campus.
- [https://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section\\_id=600](https://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section_id=600)
- NCCA: National Center for Creative Aging
- In 2001, through a partnership with the National Council on Aging and the National Endowment for the Arts, Susan Perlstein established the NCCA as a program within Elders Share the Arts. In 2007, NCCA was incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization. NCCA focuses on the potential and achievements of older adults, rather than the problems typically associated with aging. Research by Dr. Gene Cohen is a key factor in this focus, as he established the link between creative expression and healthy aging.
- <http://www.creativeaging.org/>
- OAA: Older Americans Act
- The original Older Americans Act was passed in 1965. The legislation funds services for older adults such as provision of meals, training for employment, and health-related activities. Periodically, it needs to be reauthorized. President Obama signed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 into law on April 19, 2016.
- [http://www.aoa.gov/AoA\\_programs/OAA/Reauthorization/2016/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoA_programs/OAA/Reauthorization/2016/Index.aspx)
- RSVP: Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- In 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service was created. Senior Corps is one of its three primary initiatives, and RSVP is one of the three programs under Senior Corps. Bottom line, RSVP is a national service program for 55+ volunteers that is run at the local level. The RSVP run by our Area 10 Agency on Aging has over 450 participants. Volunteer service hours are tracked, and the data are used to demonstrate the impact of senior volunteers on the community.
- <http://area10agency.org/rsvp/>

TRIAD: Law enforcement, senior citizens, and community organizations

The word “triad” has an everyday meaning of “any union or group of three.” In this particular case, the “three” in the union are: law enforcement, senior citizens, and community organizations. The TRIAD concept was proposed originally in conversation among the National Sheriff’s Association, the National Association of Police, and AARP. The Monroe County TRIAD was started in 1992 by Sheriff Bill Brown with two officers, a few AARP members, and RSVP volunteers.

<http://www.monroeprosecutor.us/prevention-education/crimes-against-the-elderly/triad/>

Sally’s Place: A gathering place for seniors (“Sally” is a reference to its host, the Salvation Army)

In 2014 a small group of citizens—two of our Commissioners among them—proposed to the Salvation Army that it experiment with offering senior-center programming in its facility. After a great deal of work by all involved, a pilot project was launched, and the rest is history. Sally’s Place now meets every Wednesday morning for a presentation followed by lunch, after which an exercise program is available for those who are interested.

<http://corps.salvationarmyindiana.org/bloomington/services/sallys-place/>

WHCOA: White House Conference on Aging

The first White House Conference on Aging was held in 1961, with subsequent conferences in 1971, 1981, 1995, 2005, and 2015. These conferences have been catalysts for development of aging policy and practice over the past 50 years. The conferences generated ideas and momentum prompting the establishment of, or key improvements in, many of the programs that represent America’s commitment to older Americans including: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act. The COA has completed three projects in response to the 2015 White House Conference, one of which was its BCFSA work (see BCFSA description above).

<http://whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/>