



Country report from Denmark prior to the 21th European Service Meeting.

- Brief Historical Summary:

Bill W. visited Denmark in the 50's. After the visit Alcoholics Anonymous started in 1955 in some private rooms. Up to the late 70's only 4 or 5 meetings were registered at the GSO New York. In the late 70's the fellowship reignited, most likely on the account of some homebound travellers. In 1978-79 a regular meeting was started up in Ryesgade. This is to-date the oldest still active group in Denmark. The group just celebrated 40 years. In the 80's more groups were active. In this decade the active members in Denmark started up the process of translating The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. In the late 80's more meetings started up, and especially the rehabilitating methods from Iceland started up in the country (in Denmark called the Minnesota-model). This gave the fellowship a huge boost in numbers. In the space of a few years the fellowship went from 25 meetings a week national wide, to 100+ meetings a week. The rehabilitating centers were a private sector and not involved in the governmental health care system. Though a lot of the governmental employers covered the expenses for the people sent into rehabilitation. Naturally they continued their development into Alcoholics Anonymous voluntary. The rehabilitation centers were not in any way affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous. This is purely mentioned to specify why the numbers of AA members expanded so much in the space of a few years. Now we have about 430 meetings a week national wide. 7 of them are English speaking. 2 of them are Polish speaking, 2 of them are Greenlandic speaking and 3 of them are Icelandic speaking meetings. At last we have 5 meetings online. Due to the pandemic (Covid-

19) this number is rapidly growing and there are at least 20 – 30 meetings online permanently.

- Current AA Structure:

GSB: 15 trustees. The board is constituted of the following: 1 chair, 1 vice chair, 1 secretary and 12 elected in the regions. Furthermore 2 international delegates, 2 nordic delegates, 1 general service conference chair and 2 reporters take part of the meetings though without being able to vote.

Regions: 6 regions.

Service office: 1 service office located in Copenhagen. Open with voluntary staff members every Monday from around 12 pm - 4 pm.

Groups/meetings: approximately 430 a week.

- Other Service Structure:

National Public Information: The committee is constituted of the following: 1 chair, 6 elected in the regions, 1 from the GSB.

Box 334: The committee is constituted of the following: 1 chair, 1 vice chair, 4 voluntary members, 1 from the GSB. a magazine published to AA members from AA members 6 times a year.

Telephone and Email: The committee is constituted of the following: 1 chair, 6 elected in the regions, 4 coordinators, 1 from the GSB. The committee is responsible for having a telephone number open all days from 8 am – 12 am. Making sure voluntary AA members answers the phone from their own home. The committee is also responsible for having an email service open all days 24 hrs. The responding time is within 24 hrs.

Economics: committee consists of the following: 1 chair, 3 voluntary members, 1 from the GSB.

ALL COMMITTEES OF THE SERVICE STRUCTURE HAVE A ROTATION PRINCIPAL OF 6 YEARS FOR EACH POSITION. THOUGH 4 YEARS AS ELECTED CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE.

Because of this principle two committees have been turned into work-in-progress under the GSB, as we need to maintain a service structure:

Service Manual: currently consists of the following: 3 voluntary members, 1 from the GSB. The committee have temporary turned into a working structure under the GSB. To be evaluated in 2 years.

Literature: All handling of new literature is currently referred to the secretary of the GSB.

- Sobriety time for service positions:

Most positions on a national scale are recommended 5 or 3 years of sobriety. There are some positions where the recommended sobriety is 1 or 2 years.

- General Service Conference:

The General Service Conference is held once a year. We have an average of 50 – 60 delegates. Also participating are the GSB and one representative for each of the committees under the GSB. The conference is a 2 day conference. First day the delegates are split into 4 committees, working with different proposals from the national fellowship. Second day is started with an hour for the regions to discuss the outcome of the proposals in the different committees. After this the conference continues, where all of the proposals and the committee decisions are read out loud, for the conference to take a vote on. We follow the democracy procedure as it is stated in structure of US and Canada. So for a proposal to go through it needs 2/3 majority and a representative for the minority can be heard before we take a new vote. If it is still 2/3 majority the proposal is for the GSB to follow through. If it is between 2/3 and 1/2 majority it is a recommendation to the GSB. Under 1/2 majority and it is cast aside by the conference and the GSB need not do anymore on the proposal.

WE DO NOT VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL, BUT ON THE COMMITTEES DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL. SO IF A COMMITTEE REJECTS A PROPOSAL, WE VOTE ON THE COMMITTEES REJECTION RATHER THAN THE PROPOSAL. SAME GOES FOR A COMMITTEES ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL.

- Service Manual:

Denmark has its own Service Manual and Structure Manual.

The Service Manual is updated and approved by the General Service Conference every year.

The Structure Manual is updated and approved by the General Service Board after every meeting (8 times a year).

- Literature/Publishing Overview:

The Big Book 4th edition (price 225 dkk)
The Big Book 4th edition, paperback (price 195 dkk)
The Big Book pocket 4th edition (price 120 dkk)
The Big Book 3rd edition (price 225 dkk)
The Big Book 3rd edition, paperback (price 195 dkk)
The Big Book pocket 3rd edition (price 120 dkk)
12 & 12 (price 125 dkk)
AA comes of age (price 150 dkk)
AA in Denmark (price 70 dkk)
Living Sober (price 125 dkk)
Came to Believe (price 125 dkk)
As Bill Sees It (price 125 dkk)
Daily Reflections (price 140 dkk)
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers (price 120 dkk)
Pass it on (currently in latter stages of publication. Realistically published in 2022)

All of the mentioned literature are translated and published in Denmark by acceptance from the GSO in New York.

- Finance Overview:

These are the actual financial overview from Denmark in 2020:

Income:

Donations from groups: 515.662 dkk.

Literature: 307.996 dkk.

Box 334 (voluntary member magazine): - 16.937 dkk.

Income Total: 806.723 dkk.

Expenses:

General Service Office: -349.195 dkk.

Service Work: -283.897 dkk.

Expenses Total: - 633.092 dkk.

Minor costs: - 5.584 dkk.

Total for 2020: 168.047 dkk.

- Relations with other countries.

We have a Nordic collaboration with Sweden, Norway and Finland. We meet twice a year. We have 2 delegates in Denmark participating. We have been greatly rewarded by the collaboration to take inspiration from the different countries service structure and service conferences. Our delegates usually also participate as observers in the different service conferences and we send invitations to the countries when we host our Service Conferences.

We also have collaboration with the GSB of UK. We participate in the General Service Conference UK as observers and they send observers to ours.

- Internet and websites:

The Danish website is to be found at the following link: <https://dkaa.dk/>

The danish website also have a brief information for english speaking people: <https://dkaa.dk/information-in-english/>

- Bullet points of particular matters:

- 1. Participation: We have a lot of meetings in our country but very few groups with a group conscience. As a result of that the General Service Conference is a reflection of the few, rather than the fellowship as a whole in our country. Do you experience the same in your countries and what can we do to turn it around?**
- 2. General Service: We experience less interest for General Service. Both at regional level and at national level. What do your countries do to keep people involved in General Service?**
- 3. Service Structure: With the growth of online meeting due to the pandemic – Where do they fit in the service structure? We have a structure based geographically. We are looking at all the experience on this matter from around the world and trying to find a structure that suits us.**

