

Report for AGM for Retreat and Conference Committee

The committee for the 2018 conference in Florida continued to meet and plan the conference. Donations were generously made to allow the committee to offer subsidies for those having difficulty paying full price to go. A number of people made requests for and received these subsidies. The committee worked very hard to promote the conference by contacting all of the groups around the world. Unfortunately, by June 2018 the committee found that only 15 people had registered for the conference. The hotel involved could not accommodate the lower number of people thus the conference had to be cancelled. Half of the donations were returned to the donors and the other half was used to cover the non-refundable deposits.

The retreat committee met a few times throughout 2018 and early 2019 to keep the momentum going for a 2019 retreat. We had tentatively booked the 4H Camp outside of Edmonton Canada for September 13-15. We spoke to them more formally in the fall of 2018 and negotiated with them to obtain the same pricing for the venue that we received in 2017. This allowed us to put a deposit down to secure the dates. The funds for this deposit was donated to the committee by several ABA members for this expressed purpose. We are very grateful to them. We will begin planning for this retreat in earnest after the AGM. We will decide at that time whether to add an extra day to the retreat to extend it as this has been requested in the past. There has already been a fair amount of interest shown in this retreat however we plan to make the budget for a lower number of participants just to be cautious.