**New But West Special Business Meeting Notes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025

**Meeting Time:** 7:30-9:10pm (EST)

**Attendees:** 12 New But West fellows/trusted servants

 Note: The attendees generally attend and/or have service commitments at: 12:30 online, 12:30 in person, 5:30 online, 5:30 in person, 10am Saturday, and 7pm Women’s meetings

**Topic of Discussion:**

This was a Special Business Meeting called by a New But West Fellow and facilitated by the group’s elected Overall Chair to explore ideas about changing the current process of holding regular NBW Business Meetings that would allow as many fellows as possible to participate and be a part of the Group Conscience.

**Background:**

The current process for our Business Meetings was created during the pandemic in 2020 when we were not able to meet in person. The current process is as follows:

* Business Meetings for the 12:30pm New But West attendees and trusted servants are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm in the online Big Room via Zoom.
* Business Meetings for the 5:30pm New But West attendees and trusted servants are held on the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the online Big Room via Zoom.

The current format for Business Meetings is better designed to engage online-tending fellows (*again, it was created to keep NBW going during the pandemic/lock-down*) while in person-tending fellows are not able / accustomed to / interested in participating in the Business Meeting in an online format.

Additionally, there are other meetings (10am Saturday, 12:30pm Men’s, 7pm women’s) that the current Business Meeting format does not necessarily accommodate.

**Discussion:**

The goal is to find a way to open communication between all the “meeting sub-groups” within New But West to serve our primary purpose – stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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In the business meetings, there are decisions that need to be made that impact the group as a whole such as: treasury (to pay rent and make donations); adding meetings (e.g., the new Literature Meeting in the Little Room on Wednesdays in person); the annual Delegate’s Questionnaire response; group events and celebrations (e.g., the anniversary party).

There are also decisions that need to be made that impact a particular “meeting sub-group” such as: set-up in the room, opening a new room (in person or online), service commitments, etc.

Even though the 12:30pm and 5:30pm groups each have an overall chair, the online process for the meetings leaves room for improvement of communication with the in person meeting trusted servants and attendees. Creating an agreed upon, easier way of communicating between groups could help fill this need.

**Discussion Highlights:**

1. **Suggestion:** Let’s look at what has worked well and do more of that; and improve on what has not worked as well (particularly communication between the various New But West meetings).
2. **Suggestion:** Should we consider having separate treasuries to allow each meeting sub-group to act autonomously as it pertains to finances and contributions?

 **Discussion:** It was brought up that having multiple bank accounts with necessary prudent reserves and signatories would create an unnecessary financial burden to the

 group as a whole. With that in mind, keeping one bank account may be ideal.

1. **Suggestion:** Is there benefit in being more rigid about having everyone who signs up for a service commitment attend Business Meetings?

 **Discussion:** It was brought up that it is imperative that we make it as easy as possible for fellows to take service commitments to sustain the health of the meeting in keeping with our Primary Purpose. Also, many fellows who take service commitments have other home groups, so it may not be advisable to add any criteria that could make it difficult for volunteers to take on service commitments.

1. **Suggestion:** What if we added a quarterly (1x every three months) Business Meeting - in addition to the standing Business Meetings - at a day and time that would allow all trusted servants of all meeting sub-groups to participate and share suggestions, issues, ideas that impact New But West as a whole?

 **Discussion:** It was discussed that fellows and trusted servants may have numerous commitments in and outside of AA that would make adding another regular meeting a burden.

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1. **Suggestion:** Could we create a new Business Meeting in a hybrid format (held in person and on Zoom simultaneously) at a day and time each month that would allow more fellows and trusted servants to attend?

 **Discussion:** It was discussed that we will need to test the tech/Wi-Fi at St. Mary’s to make sure a hybrid meeting is possible. Also, the Overall Chair (or meeting facilitator) will need to make sure both in person and online fellows are able to share/be heard/weigh in during the discussion. It is likely that the technology at St. Mary’s has been improved over the last few years and there are work arounds such as bringing in a monitor and using a hotspot.

1. **Suggestion:** Can we have another Special Business Meeting held in a hybrid format to continue this discussion and allow as many fellows/trusted servants as possible to participate?

 **Discussion:** If we have a hybrid Special Business meeting to continue this discussion, we need to make it at a day and time that is most convenient for all - keeping in mind factors such as: some people do not want/feel safe to be in Times Square at night, some cannot extend their lunch hours or workdays to attend.

**Motion:**

**A motion was made and passed to:**

* Hold another Special Business Meeting to explore ideas about changing the current process of holding regular NBW Business Meetings that would allow as many fellows as possible to participate and be a part of the Group Conscience.
* The meeting will be in hybrid format (in person and online via Zoom simultaneously) and the proposed date is **Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 11:15am-12:45pm at St. Mary’s and online using the Big Room Zoom link that can be found on www.newbutwest.org.**

**Next Steps:**

* These notes will be emailed to the NBW email list, posted in the in-person space at St. Mary’s, and posted on NewButWest.org.
* Notice of the Special Business Meeting will be added as an “AA-related Announcement” to all meeting scripts.

(end)