

**New York North
2019 AWSC Fall Assembly
Zoom Committee Report**

Zoom is video conferencing platform. A “host” sends out an invite, through email, to people to join the meeting. Invite contains time of meeting, link to join on computer or tablet, and phone numbers to call if unable to use computer. The ability to call in to a meeting is what make Zoom different from various other free video conferencing services.

The host is the only person that can set up the meeting and send the invite. During the meeting the host has control of administrative features during the meeting, such as recording the meeting and muting people. The host does not have to be in the meeting, but needs to set it up and sent out the invite. If the host is not on the meeting, you lose all the administrative features. The host can transfer administrative features to another person in the meeting, but must join the meeting briefly to do that.

If the idea is for NYN, NYN Committees/Coordinators, and Districts to have the ability to use Zoom, there would need to be a point person would be the host and schedule and send invites for meetings. This person would not have to join the meeting, if the administrative functions are not needed. You can pay for multiple hosts and then they all would have the ability to schedule meetings.

All Zoom meetings, have the ability for a person to share their screen, use a whiteboard where all members can “write” on, have private and group chat, and a raise hand feature. There are several other features that may be useful as we get more experienced with Zoom.

Pricing, <https://zoom.us/pricing>

Basic – FREE

40 mins limit on group meetings

No Administrative features

Up to 100 participants

Unlimited 1 to 1 meetings

Unlimited number of meetings

Pro - \$14.99/month/host

Meeting duration limit is 24 hrs

Administrative features

1GB of MP4 or M4A cloud recording

Up to 100 participants

All Basic features

Business - \$19.99/month/host (\$199.90/month minimum)

Up to 300 participants

All Pro features

Zoom offers the best or equivalent price to all the alternatives explored with the features it has. While cheaper options exist that have the majority of features Zoom provides, a major one that the cheaper options all lack is the ability to teleconference into the meeting via a standard telephone number. This feature allows those on a landline (or those with limited data on their cell phones) to connect to the meeting as if it were a teleconference. (Like those used for Al-Anon phone meetings.) Those connecting in this way would obviously not have access to any of the features (Screen/Document share etc.) beyond being able to hear and speak in the meeting. If the teleconferencing feature is a necessity for our virtual meetings Zoom seems to be the undisputed best option. If, however, that feature is not necessary there are better alternatives that can be explored.

Yours in Service

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