

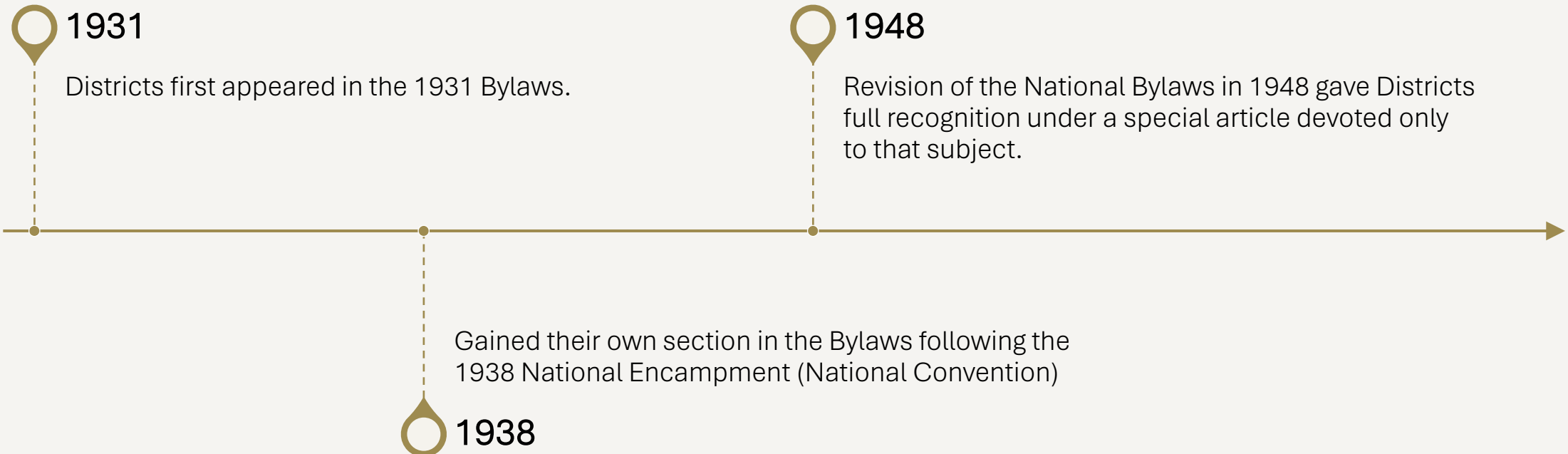


**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

District Commander  
Responsibilities

BRIAN WALKER AND  
JOSEPH WOLFGEHER

# History of Districts



# Purposes

## Mentorship

- District Officers
- Post Officers

## Educate and Train

- School of Instruction

## Promote

- VFW Mission
- Programs

## Communication Link

- Information Flow

# Mentorship

## Lead by Example

- Through the Preparation, Conduct, and Professional attitude during District Meetings

## Active Listening

- Interested
- Enthusiastic
- Empathy

## Constructive Feedback

- Positive
- Respectful
- Understand rather than judge
- Challenge

# Educate, Train and Motivate

1

## Be Educated before Educating

- Understand the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, Department Bylaws, and District Bylaws
- Know where the available resources are
  - VFW.org and VFW Training and Support
  - Department Training Programs
  - Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised

2

## School of Instruction

- Be Clear and Concise
- Have materials on hand or where to find them

3

Don't use the phrase, "I have always done it that way"

Encourage

Set Goals

# Promote

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Mission

- To foster camaraderie among United States Veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military and our communities; and to advocate of behalf of all veterans.

## Programs

- Membership
- Youth Scholarship Programs – Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, and Teacher of the Year
- Community Volunteerism – VA Voluntary Service, Annual Day of Service, Community Service Reporting
- Troop Support – Military Assistance Program, Adopt-a-Unit, VFW Unmet Needs.
- Educational Programs- VFW ‘s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”
- Youth Activities – Sponsoring Youth Programs such as Youth Sports, Scouting, JROTC, Civil Air Patrols, etc.
- All-American Requirements

# Communication Link



BRIDGE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND  
POST AND VICE VERSA.  
OTHER DISTRICT COMMANDERS.



INFORMATION FLOW



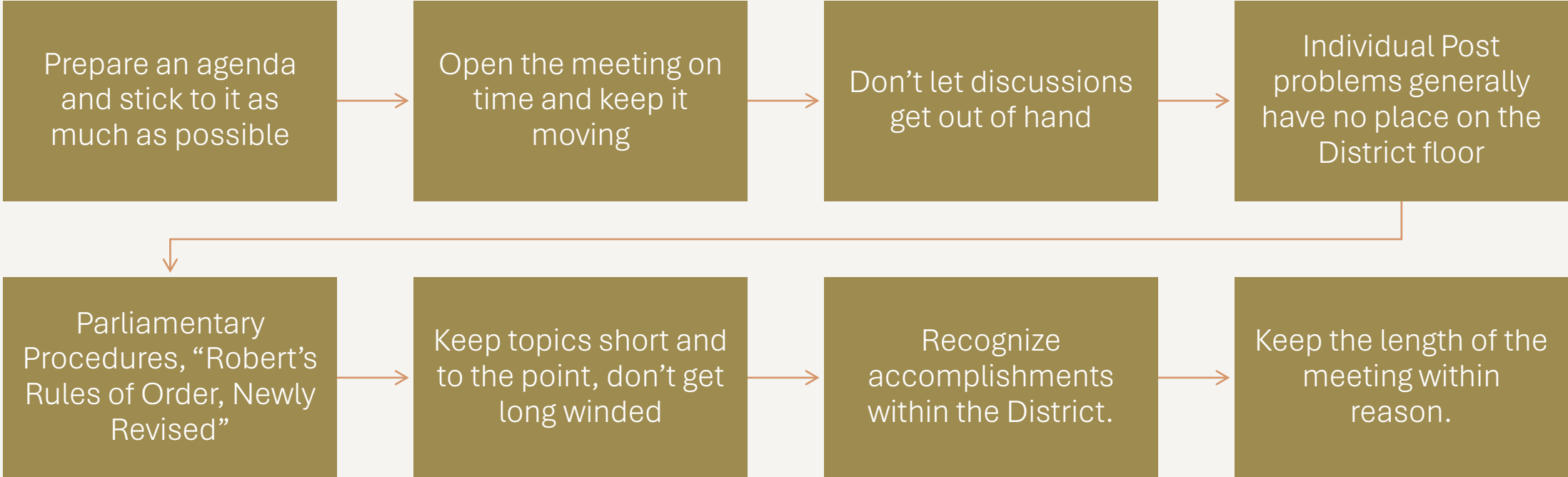
CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE  
POSTS IN THE DISTRICTS

# Duties and Responsibilities

- Article IV Section 418 (a)(1) Commander
  - Preside at all meetings
  - Promote School of Instruction
  - Enforce strict observance of the laws and usages of this organization
  - Appoint officer, committee chairmen and committees not otherwise provided for
  - Assure all reports are correctly prepared
  - Assure that the District Inspector has properly inspected the books and records of the Posts within the District
  - Serve as a member of the Department Council of Administration



# Conducting a District Meeting



# Appointments and Committee Chairs

Be thoughtful and selective in your selection/request.

- “Teamwork makes the Dream work”
- Match strengths and passion.
- Ask about availability.
- Stay away from Negative attitudes personality conflicts.

Appoint a Chief of Staff

- Trustworthy, Knowledgeable.
- Easy to reach and communicate.
- Preferable a Past District Commander or Officer.

District Veteran Service Information Officer

- Advocacy Assistance.
  - Referrals for claims. Only VA accredited can assist
- Knowledge of VA procedures and programs.
- Local Resources.
- Direct line to Post Service Officers.

Committee Chairs:

- Youth Scholarship (Patriot Pen/Voice of Democracy) or keep separate.
- Americanism (Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year)
- POW/MIA
- Public Relations and or Media
- Community Service
- Membership
- District Recruiter



# What a District Commander **Cannot** Do.

1

Place a Post on Suspension.  
Sec 211

2

Close a Canteen/Club room down.

3

Remove a Post Officer.  
Sec 220

4

Bring forward Disciplinary Actions.  
Sec 903 (b)

QUESTIONS?