

**HISTORY-PAST DISCARDED COMMANDERS**

(was #422-1) APPROVED BY FALL CONFERENCE, REVISION "0", DATE 11/6/2004

Any and all D31 past district commanders (P/D/C) are eligible for membership in this astute society.

Soon after D31 came into existence (18 January 1975) at the annual district meeting and after the election of a new commander, the custom or ceremony was instituted as a stunt for the P/D/Cs' in full view of the audience to go into a huddle and violently debate, pro and con, whether or not the new P/D/C was worthy of the high honor of, and otherwise in all respects acceptable, to be admitted to the exclusive society of "Past Discarded Commanders".

This event was held during the social event (dinner) after the conclusion of the business meeting. The candidate for admission was not allowed in the room until after the highly agitated discussion was concluded and the Nay Sayers would finally gracefully give in and vote for admittance. At this time the new "past discarded commander" was brought in with great fanfare and crowned and robed in appropriate outlandish costume and then paraded around the room to be greeted by the old members as well as the general audience.

Win Baker, probably with Bob's help, created Bob's attire. She continued with this for succeeding P/D/Cs for several years. The attachments to the attire were reminders of events that took place during the P/D/C's term as D/C. The wife of the last P/D/C now makes the attire for the new P/D/C.

At subsequent meetings he was obligated to wear his highly distinctive costume during and after the ceremony.

As to its origin, my recollection is that Bob Baker and Frank Wedge were the originators. The discarded part came from the obvious resulting position of the once high officer of the district, which coupled with the fact that they had little or minimum official duties, gave full credence to using "discarded"..

It is interesting to note that other districts treat their P/D/Cs' in various type of actions designed to accomplish essentially the same results of adding enjoyment of the occasion and at the same time paying tribute (in a left handed manner) to the outgoing one.

Submitted respectfully,  
P/R/C Jack C. Owens, SN, (Tulsa) (Past Chm. USPS Nominating Committee)  
(Fourth D/C of District 31 (1978-1979)

P/V/C Franklin W. Wedge, SN, (Memphis Power Squadron was in D31 at the time)  
(Past USPS Treasurer) (Second D/C of District 31 (1976-1977)  
(I still have my outfit, cowboy hat and all. I treasure it with fond memories, says Frank)