



LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals 50th Anniversary 1959-2009

This is the first in a series of email messages about the history of the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Membership in celebration of our 50th Anniversary.

In 1950, the dreams and visions of 13 courageous women who wanted to play professional golf became a reality with the founding of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Nine years later in September 1959, even though they were struggling to establish a year-long circuit of tournaments, this embryonic group of professionals boldly had the vision to establish the LPGA Teaching Division, which today is known as the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional membership.

The 13 LPGA founders are: **Alice Bauer, Patty Berg, Bettye Danoff, Helen Detweiler, Marlene Bauer Hagge, Helen Hicks, Opal Hill, Betty Jameson, Sally Sessions, Marilynn Smith, Shirley Spork, Louise Suggs** and **Babe Zaharias**.

1950s: The Beginning

Betty Hicks served as the first Teaching Committee chairperson from 1958-59.

In 1959, with **Marilynn Smith** serving as president, the LPGA membership voted to establish the Teaching membership. **Shirley Spork, Barbara Rotvig, Betty Hicks** and **Marilynn Smith** are the division's founding members and served on the first Teaching Committee, playing pivotal roles in creating guidelines and strategies for the LPGA Teaching membership's future growth.



Betty Hicks gives a clinic.



Shirley Spork



Marilynn Smith



TEACHING AND CLUB PROFESSIONALS
LPGA
50

1959... Growth... Tradition... Excellence... 2009

50th Anniversary Celebration



Marilynn Smith (left) and Shirley Spork hold a clinic for the U.S. Army.



Marilynn Smith and student

**Happy 50th Anniversary to all our LPGA T&CP members.
You are creating the future chapters in our history!**

