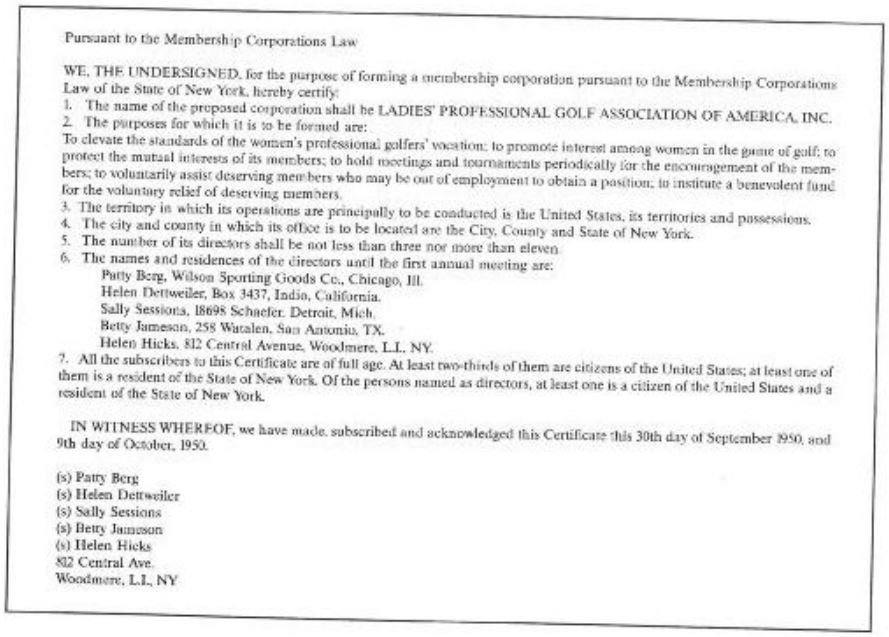
LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals: A History
1950s – The Beginning

In 1950, a Certificate of Incorporation was issued to the Ladies Professional Golf Association by the State of New York.



Pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, for the purpose of forming a membership corporation pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law of the State of New York, hereby certify:

1. The name of the proposed corporation shall be LADIES' PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
2. The purposes for which it is to be formed are:

To elevate the standards of the women's professional golfers' vocation; to promote interest among women in the game of golf; to protect the mutual interests of its members; to hold meetings and tournaments periodically for the encouragement of the members; to voluntarily assist deserving members who may be out of employment to obtain a position; to institute a benevolent fund for the voluntary relief of deserving members.

3. The territory in which its operations are principally to be conducted is the United States, its territories and possessions.
4. The city and county in which its office is to be located are the City, County and State of New York.
5. The number of its directors shall be not less than three nor more than eleven.
6. The names and residences of the directors until the first annual meeting are:
   Patty Berg, Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago, Ill.
   Helen Dettweiler, Box 3437, Indio, California.
   Sally Sessions, 18698 Schaefer, Detroit, Mich.
   Betty Jameson, 258 Watalen, San Antonio, TX.
   Helen Hicks, 812 Central Avenue, Woodmere, L.I., NY.
7. All the subscribers to this Certificate are of full age. At least two-thirds of them are citizens of the United States; at least one of them is a resident of the State of New York. Of the persons named as directors, at least one is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have made, subscribed and acknowledged this Certificate this 30th day of September 1950, and 9th day of October, 1950.

(s) Patty Berg
(s) Helen Dettweiler
(s) Sally Sessions
(s) Betty Jameson
(s) Helen Hicks
812 Central Ave.
Woodmere, L.I., NY

Five women signed the original charter:
Patty Berg
Helen Dettweiler
Sally Sessions
Betty Jameson
Helen Hicks

Betty Jameson and Louise Suggs

Eight more professionals attended the organizational meeting, which was held in Wichita, Kansas that same year:
Alice Bauer
Marlene Bauer (Hagge)
Betty Mims Danoff
Opal Hill
Marilynn Smith
Shirley Spork
Louise Suggs
Babe Zaharias

Patty Berg

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).

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.**

The LPGA Teaching Division: "One Vote"

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 measure passed by **one vote**.

Shirley Spork, Barbara Rotvig, Betty Hicks and **Marilynn Smith** became the division's founding members and served on the first Teaching Committee, playing pivotal roles in creating guidelines and strategies for the LPGA Teaching Division's future growth. **Betty Hicks** served as the first Teaching Committee Chairwoman.

Betty Hicks

Marilynn Smith

Shirley Spork

Barbara Rotvig

L to R: Barbara Rotvig, Betty Hicks, Shirley Spork, Ellen Griffin