



The LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals: A History The late 1960s and 1970s

The Area Representatives Program

In August 1968, **Jane Read**, a tour and teaching professional, volunteered to chair the LPGA Teaching Division (1968-1969, 1971-1973) when she learned that the division may have to be eliminated because it was becoming too burdensome for the Tour players to administer. Her appointment was approved by the Tour President.

During that time, all practical testing of those who wanted to become members of the Teaching Division was conducted by Tour members on Tuesdays of each tournament week. Jane administered the written portion (as well as handling all correspondence—with an electric typewriter!) while two other tour members conducted the practical. During the tour year 1969, Read conceived of the idea of appointing Area Representatives around the country, who would be trained to administer the tests in different areas.



Read conducted interviews, appointed the original Area Representatives, conducted training sessions, and with the help of **Betsy Rawls** and **Mary Dagraedt**, rewrote the tests and developed the procedures that were to be used in the testing. An “Area Representatives Manual” was developed, which established and maintained guidelines to insure that high-quality procedures were taught and testing remained consistent throughout all the areas.

LADIES PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION
TEACHING DIVISION TEST

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

18. Which of the following is not characteristic of a good address position when using a 5 iron?
1. Knees slightly bent
 2. Hands even with or slightly ahead of the ball
 3. Weight even with or slightly ahead of the balls of the feet and toes.
 4. Hips, shoulders and feet parallel to the intended line of flight.

The Re-organization

In 1975, under the leadership of then National Chairperson **Mary Dagraedt** (1973-1975), and former Chairpersons **Penny Zavichas** (1970-1971) and **Jane Read** (1968-1969, 1971-1973) the nation was divided into five geographical sections: The Central, Midwest, Northeast, Southeast and Western sections. Area Representatives continued to serve the members in these sections, as they do to this day as LPGA National Evaluators.



In 1976, Ray Volpe was hired as LPGA Commissioner and the office was moved from Atlanta, Georgia to New York City. At the time, the Teaching Division consisted of a few cardboard boxes and an electric typewriter that were passed from one National Chairperson to another. Volpe decided the Division needed help, so he invited one member from each section to come to New York, where he presented his idea of allowing the Teaching Division to organize and govern itself. The members who were present became the first LPGA Section Presidents and were designated as the "Teaching Committee." They were:

Central Section: **Scherry Allison**
 Midwest Section: **Goldie Bateson**
 Northeast Section: **Carrie Russell**
 Southeast Section: **Marge Burns**
 Western Section: **Joanne Winter**



Southeast Section Seminar – 1976

Top Row: **Ellen Griffin, Mary Dagraedt, Marge Burns**
 Bottom Row: **Gloria Armstrong, Scherry Allison, Peggy Kirk Bell**



Carrie P. Russell was the first black woman to achieve her LPGA Class A Certification

Among the items on the agenda at this meeting were:

1. Write the Constitution and By-Laws for the Teaching Division
2. Appoint officers for each section
3. Begin monthly Section Newsletters to members
4. Implement education seminars in each section
5. Find all the members in each section and determine:
 - a. Correct address/phone number/current employment information
 - b. Current classification and date of eligibility for next classification
 - c. Whether members wanted to continue under the new administration and governing laws being put into practice.



Meeting every six months at various locations, the Teaching Committee tackled such chores as setting policy and procedure, initiating disciplinary action for violations of the Constitution, and setting duties for each section officer and future members of the Teaching Committee. Western Section President, **Joanne Winter** and Northeast Section President, **Goldie Bateson** were commissioned with rewriting the tests for Apprentice, Class B and Class A. The committee also elected the Teaching Division's first National President: **Scherry Allison**.



Goldie Bateson



Joanne Winter

Today, this group, consisting of the National President and the five section presidents, is called the T&CP Executive Committee. In 2010, the National Vice President will join the Committee. The T&CP National President sits on the LPGA Board of Directors.

Goals, Growth, and the Point System

In 1976, the Teaching Division had 141 members. In 1977, the membership increased to 212. In trying to reorganize the Teaching Division, The Teaching Committee recognized the important of offering to their members more incentives and opportunities to improve their teaching profession. This was done by creating new programs, projects, and goals towards which both the old and new members could work. Thus, the Point System was established.

The Committee established criteria that required each member to earn "experience points" during each phase of their membership – Apprentice, Class B and Class A. When setting up the system, Committee felt that those older members who had attended the LPGA Golf Schools during the early 60s and served as Teaching Division Chairpersons and staff members should be entitled to receive retroactive points for this period of time. They also created another classification that better described these members: **Master Professional Classification**.



**1978 LPGA Teaching Division Southeast Section
First Master Professional Presentation Awards**
L-R, Patty Berg, Honorary Member; Ellen Griffin, Honorary Member;
Marge Burns, President SE Section; Peggy Kirk Bell,
Scherry Allison, T&CP National President; Anne Little

Past LPGA Teaching Committee Chairpersons

Betty Hicks	(1958-59)
Shirley Spork	(1960-67)
Jane Read	(1968-69)
Penny Zavichas	(1970-71)
Jane Read	(1971-73)
Mary Dagraedt	(1973-75)

Past LPGA T&CP Division National Presidents – 1970s

Scherry Allison	(1976-80)
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Teacher of the Year Award Winners – 1970-1979



Marge Burns



DeDe Owens



Shirley Englehorn

1970	Gloria Armstrong
1971	Jeanette Rector
1972	Lee Spencer
1973	Penny Zavichas
1974	Mary Dagraedt
1975	Carol Johnson
1976	Marge Burns
1977	Dr. DeDe Owens
1978	Shirley Englehorn
1979	Bobbie Ripley

