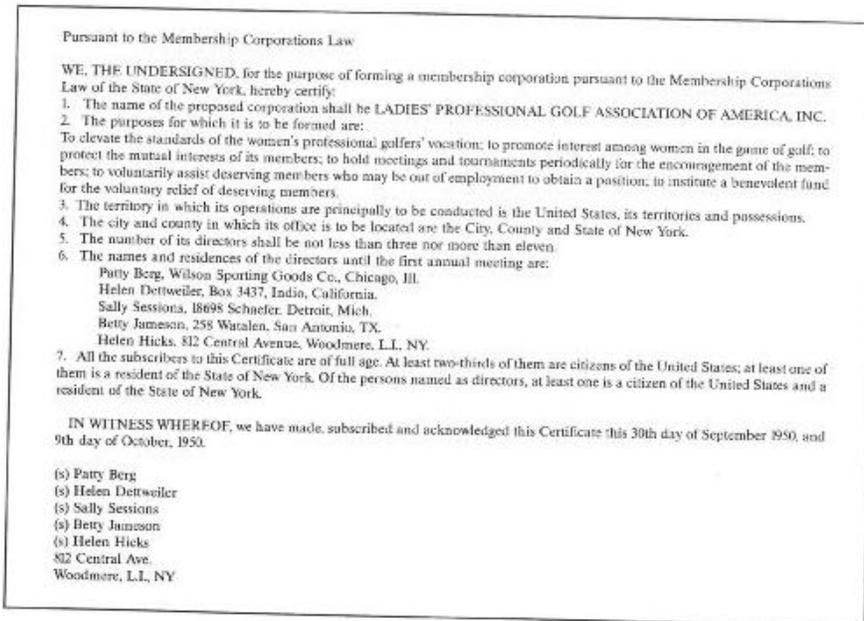




LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals: A History 1950s – The Beginning

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



Five women signed the original charter:

Patty Berg
Helen Dettweiler
Sally Sessions
Betty Jameson
Helen Hicks

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



Betty Jameson and Louise Suggs



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

