

University of Arkansas,  
United States Department  
of Agriculture, and County  
Governments Cooperating

No. 10

October 2014

## Retiree Spotlight

*Frank Jones  
Vatra Stone Hibbs*

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System

## Jones Likes Flexibility of Retirement

**S**ince retiring on May 1, 2009, Dr. Frank Jones has started his own consulting company and has learned a few lessons about retirement.

He learned that it's fine to watch Andy Griffith reruns for a few weeks after leaving your job, but then you need to set up a structure for your days and create some personal goals.

"Nobody is going to do that for you," he said.

Jones' father also retired from Extension, where he worked as an agronomy specialist at the University of Florida.

Not long after retirement, Jones started Performance Poultry Consulting LLC. He works primarily with poultry companies and trade organizations regarding issues like sanitation and salmonella.

Jones has always been a bird guy. He started out working for Extension as a poultry specialist at North Carolina State University in 1977. After 20 years, he went to the University of Arkansas as a section leader in the Poultry Center.

He traveled back and forth to Little Rock frequently – or wherever he was needed in the state. Jones supervised other specialists and represented the Poultry Center at events.

He joked: "It kept me off the streets. It kept me busy."

In addition to his consulting company, Jones keeps busy in retirement as a volunteer at the local food pantry in Springdale. His wife, Aileen, works with him. The two also travel a lot and take care of their 3½-year-old grandson together. They have three grown sons.

Jones is involved in men's groups and other activities at his church, Fellowship Bible.

Jones is also a Razorback fan and occasionally enjoys fishing.

He enjoys the flexibility of retirement mostly. If one of his sons needs him, he's able to rearrange his day and help most of the time. He and his wife can make a quick decision to take a little trip.

Jones said he tells people who are contemplating retirement to figure out what they are interested in doing and start to transition into that activity.

"Keep active and keep your mind sharp," he advises.

To reconnect with Dr. Frank Jones, contact him at 479-841-3010, 2188 Waverly Ave., Springdale, Ark. 72762.



**Frank Jones**

– Shannon Magsam

## Vatra Stone Hibbs Living Large in Las Vegas

Vatra Stone Hibbs retired from Extension in 1999 and just a few months later moved to Las Vegas.

She decided her strategy should be to get a new job and meet some new people since she was new to the area. She found a fun job at a call center where people order medications, check on their insurance deductibles and other medical-related needs.

"I joke that I'm a call girl and I sell drugs," Hibbs said with a laugh.

Her cubicle at work is decorated with Razorback memorabilia and she has a wall at her house devoted to the Hogs.

Hibbs, a native Arkansan and go-getter, enjoys sharing her Southern culture with co-workers, friends and her husband of 10 years, Jack. And they share with her. She recently celebrated the Jewish New Year with friends and she's also enjoyed Mexican and Chinese new year festivities.

"Everyone lets me in on their cultural experiences," she said. "I taught them to make moonshine."



Vatra Stone Hibbs with husband, Jack

In her downtime, Hibbs enjoys playing penny slot machines, attending the many festivals and events in her adopted hometown (including the county fair to see the 4-H exhibits) and going to the movies (where the theatre has reclining seats and cocktails). She also plays tour guide to many visitors.

Hibbs jokes that she sees her relatives from The Natural State more often now that she lives in Vegas.

She and Jack will be entertaining some of Hibbs' Arkansas girlfriends from Extension in a couple of months. They'll be in Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo and shopping. Lots of shopping.

Hibbs worked with some of these women in her various Extension jobs. She worked for Extension twice. The first time was in 1970, right after graduating from the University of Central Arkansas. She was the assistant home economist in Lonoke, Calhoun and Ashley counties. Then she left to teach school. Hibbs returned to Extension in 1976 and worked as a home economist in Randolph County.

She retired from Pocahontas in 1999.

Hibbs expects to retire from her call center job in March 2015.

"That's when I plan to call it a day," she said.

To reconnect with Vatra Stone Hibbs, contact her at 702-243-9766, 4855 Lames Drive, Las Vegas, Nev. 89122.

— Shannon Magsam

**Mark Your Calendar:** The 2015 Galaxy Conference will be held at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute from March 30-April 2. The theme for this year's conference will be Explore a New Galaxy. Plans are underway to have an educational track for retirees in 2015. Registration fees have not been determined at this time. The Retirees' Luncheon will be free, but those attending other activities or meals should register and pay accordingly. More information will be provided in the *Extension Cord* as available. If there are topics that you would like to see on the program, please send suggestions to [tjames@uaex.edu](mailto:tjames@uaex.edu) so we can begin to develop the sessions. Looking forward to seeing you at GALAXY 2015 as we "Explore A New GALAXY"!

— Bobby Hall

## From the Editorial Board

New ethics rules for state elected officials, statewide alcohol sales and a raised minimum wage are among the five issues voters will be asked to decide upon when they go to the polls on Nov. 4.

Extension's Public Policy Center has developed a fact sheet on each ballot item to help voters understand the complexity of the issues and the arguments on both sides.

The fact sheets, available for download or through the local county extension office, are edited by a coalition of experts to ensure they are neutral presentations of the ballot issues.

The first three issues listed below have been referred to voters by the legislature, and the last two have been placed on the ballot by petition of the public.

- **Issue No. 1** - An amendment empowering the General Assembly to provide for legislative committee review and approval of state agencies' administrative rules and Distribution.
- **Issue No. 2** - An amendment allowing more time to gather signatures on a state-wide initiative or referendum petition only if the petition as originally filed contained at least 75 percent of the valid signatures required.
- **Issue No. 3** - An amendment regulating

contributions to candidates for state or local office, barring gifts from lobbyists to certain state officials, providing for setting salaries of certain state officials, and setting term limits for members of the general assembly.

- **Issue No. 4** - The Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Amendment.
- **Issue No. 5** - An Act to Increase the Arkansas Minimum Wage

As of September 30, Issues No. 3, 4 and 5 were facing court challenges. The fact sheet content was readied for press before the outcome of the legal action.

Hard copies of the fact sheets will be available at county extension offices. They may be downloaded at <http://uaex.edu/business-communities/voter-education/state-ballot-issues.aspx>, and videos explaining each ballot item will be available at [www.youtube.com/user/ARextension](http://www.youtube.com/user/ARextension).

Your editorial board

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## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited September 1-30, 2014.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In memory of Mary Frances Arnold*

Fann Woodward

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark., 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

Cooperative Extension Service  
2301 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

## November Birthdays

Massie Silva, Nov. 3  
Frances Story, Nov. 4  
Sue Palsa, Nov. 9  
Wallace Cummings, Nov. 10  
Jerry McIntyre, Nov. 11  
Gerald Alexander, Nov. 12  
Rubye Talbert, Nov. 12  
Doris Begeman, Nov. 13  
Milo Shult, Nov. 13  
Patsy Keller, Nov. 15  
Gloria Eubanks, Nov. 16  
Eugenia Hockett, Nov. 18  
Luther Roberts, Nov. 20  
Joe Vestal, Nov. 22  
John Philpot, Nov. 23  
Kathryn Fowler, Nov. 25  
Vatra Stone Hibbs, Nov. 27  
Louise McPherson, Nov. 28  
Jim Frala, Nov. 30

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$18.00	_____

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of ☐ \$20.12 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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