TO: ALL RICA MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
FROM: DENNIS C. HILLIARD - RICA TREASURER  
RE: ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF RICA

May 19, 2017

The June Meeting of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on Friday, June 23, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Eleven Forty Nine Restaurant in East Greenwich. Social Hour at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 7:00 PM followed by dinner. We need to have 50 members and guests committed to attend this meeting. Please send your check to confirm your attendance and your entree choice, made payable to RICA, for $35.00 per person c/o: Dennis Hilliard, 41 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881-1966 by 3:00 PM Tuesday, June 13, 2017. (You may call the Laboratory at 874-5056 or email dch@uri.edu for a reservation, then send your check! Do it now, so that you don’t forget!)

The Eleven Forty Nine Restaurant, http://restaurant.elevenfortynine.com/, is located at 1149 Division Rd, East Greenwich, 401-884-1149. See Menu below for Entrée Choices. Please indicate your entree choice(s) when you make your reservation or when you send your check. There is plenty of parking on site.

MENU

Appetizers @ the table: Pepperoni Pizza, Crispy Calamari, Heirloom Tomato Bruschetta, Assorted Rolls and Butter & Traditional Salad

Entrees (Choose One):
Chicken Marsala - Sautéed Mushrooms, Pancetta, Brown Gravy, Served with Herb Infused Whipped Potatoes + Grilled Asparagus

Dijon Herb Encrusted Haddock - Lemon Beurre Blanc, Served with Herb Infused Whipped Potatoes + Grilled Asparagus

Bacon Wrapped Meatloaf - Mushroom Gravy, Served with Herb Infused Whipped Potatoes + Grilled Asparagus

Dessert & Coffee: Regular and Decaf Coffee, Tea & Dessert platter- Chocolate Torte Squares, Red Velvet Cupcakes, Cheesecake Squares

RICA 2017 dues: If you or your department has not paid your dues, please send your check for $15.00, made payable to RICA, c/o Dennis Hilliard, 41 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881-1966. Remember, if you remain a member in good standing, when you retire you are considered a Life Member and Life Members are not subject to annual dues.
The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on May 11, 2017. The Commission was presented with a copy of the Laboratory’s 1st Quarter progress report for 2017. There was a slight decrease (181 vs. 200) in the number of new cases and a slight increase (924 vs. 919) in the number of exhibits submitted to the Laboratory from January 1 to March 31, 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. Chief Thomas Oates, Woonsocket PD and Linda Bachand-Jackson, retired Pawtucket Police Detective, have been nominated for appointment by Governor Gina Raimondo to replace Colonel David Randall and Clay Choquette, respectively on the State Crime Laboratory Commission. The appointments are pending the “Advice and Consent” of the Senate.

The Laboratory will be presenting workshops in June. The cost is $50 per workshop:

Workshop 1 Advanced Latent Print Enhancement and Documentation Techniques, June 9th, Instructor: James Clift
Workshop 2 Blood Spatter Pattern Interpretation and Documentation, June 14th, Instructor: Walter Williams
Workshop 3 Crime Scene Photography, June 21st, Instructor: Mark Zabinski
Workshop 4 Photoshop Techniques, June 28th, Instructor: Mark Zabinski

Works in Progress: Byrne Grant funds for 2017 have been awarded and are to be used to create a web portal to our LIMS which will give investigators the opportunity to pre-log cases. The purpose is to reduce time spent at the Laboratory during case submissions. Ceiling tiles and lights have been installed in the east hallway and the foyer of the Fogarty basement Demolition of the basement laboratory benches has been completed and plans are being made to renovate that space for the Firearms section and for Crime School training. RICA Members at the March meeting voted to donate $10,000 toward the renovation of space to be used for training law enforcement officers in the Crime School Program.

Out in the Field: Laboratory Staff continue to present tours of the Laboratory and lectures on forensic science to schools and civic organizations. The SMILE program, a pre-college STEM after-school program, culminated with over 100 students participating in forensic challenges in 5 labs/crime scenes on Friday, March 31, and April 1, 2017 at URI. Dennis Hilliard presented the introductory lecture. There was a front page story in the Providence Journal concerning NIBIN and the Laboratory: [http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20170321/tracing-bullet-to-its-gun-faster-than-ever-before--video](http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20170321/tracing-bullet-to-its-gun-faster-than-ever-before--video).

**FUNDING**

The Laboratory’s State FY2018 budget request was reduced by $260,000 in the Governor’s FY 2018 budget request, which equaled the amount requested for two instruments. Dennis Hilliard testified before the House and Senate Finance committees requesting that they advocate for the restoration of those funds to the FY2018 budget. Gerald Coyne, Deputy Attorney General notified the Laboratory director in April that funds were available within their budget for the purchase of the two instruments, a UV-Vis Micro-Spectrophotometer for Trace and a Comparison Microscope for Firearms. Please take a moment to thank the Attorney General and his staff for their consideration of and support of the State Crime Laboratory.

As always, if you have an opportunity to speak with RI US Senators, US Representatives or their staff, remind them of the importance of federal grant programs. We rely on Byrne/JAG and Coverdell Grant awards to maintain our accreditation and provide much needed equipment, supplies and training opportunities that are not covered in our state budget.

The Coverdell funds are used to support training for staff members by funding their attendance at regional and national educational conferences. It has been used to send members to the AAFS, ASCLD and AFTE. It will be used to send staff to the IAI educational conference in August, 2017. The Byrne/JAG 2017 award funding will be used to allow for the creation of a web portal for pre-logging of evidence to be delivered to the Laboratory.

**PERSONALS**

Congratulations to Donald R, Delaere, Jr. (’08) on his appointment as Chief of the Scituate Police Department.
Congratulations to the Crime Lab staff for passing an on-site accreditation audit. The Lab was first accredited in 2007.