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

The June Quarterly Meeting of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

The meeting will be held at The Old Grist Mill Tavern in Seekonk, MA. 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 out to RICA, for $35.00 per person c/o: Dennis Hilliard, 41 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881-1966 by COB Friday, June 8, 2019. (You may call the Laboratory at 874-5056 or email dhilliard@uri.edu for a reservation, then send your check! Do it now, so that you don't forget!)

The Old Grist Mill Tavern, https://ogmtavern.com/, is located at 390 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771, (508) 366-8460. See Menu below for Entrée Choices. Please indicate your entrée choice(s) when you make your reservation or when you send your check.

**MENU**

**Appetizers @ the table:** Bruschetta & Potato Skins.

**Entrees (Choose One):** Baked Boston Scrod, Baked Stuffed Chicken, 10 oz Sirloin Steak, Pasta Primavera. All entrees include choice of House or Caesar Salad, Potato, Vegetable of the Day and Homemade Breads.

**Beverage & Dessert:** Soda, Coffee or Tea & Dessert

RICA 2019 dues: Dues notices have gone out to all members and as of this writing there are twenty-two unpaid members. A final dues notice will be sent by email on June 1, 2019. If you still owe dues, please send a check for $15.00, made payable to RICA, c/o Dennis Hilliard, 41 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881-1966. Those members who have not paid their 2019 dues by the meeting date, will be dropped from the membership list. 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.
• SERVICE & TRAINING

The March Anniversary meeting was held at La’Antica Trattoria @ St Bart's Club in Providence. The meeting was attended by 57 members and guests. As it was last year, the food was excellent. This will be a regular meeting place for our March meetings. It was a great meeting and since at the Annual meeting in December, the election process was suspended, an election was held for the Association’s officers at this meeting. Nominations were sought for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Costantino Natale (‘14) was elected as President, Dennis Hilliard (‘80) was elected as Treasurer and Tamara Wong (‘11) was elected as Secretary. For the first time in memory there were two candidates for the position of Vice President: James Desmarais (‘08) & Scott Vellone (‘08). James Desmarais was elected on a vote count by the Secretary. Many thanks to Past President Al Giusti and Past Vice President William Swierk for their many years of service to the Association.

The raffle, which included wines, cigars, clothing from Stitches, RICA cookies and a Tequila gift basket, generated $365 in ticket sales. Accounting for expenses of $75 the Association had a profit of $290.

The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on April 29, 2019 at the RIAG’s Cranston facility. The Commission was presented with a copy of the Laboratory’s first quarter progress report for 2019. There was a 16% increase in the number of new cases and a 16% increase in the number of exhibits submitted to the Laboratory from January 1 to March 31, 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. The 35 investigators enrolled in the BCI course graduated April 5, 2019. The new Crime Scene rooms were used extensively during this year’s class. Click [Here](#) to see the staff in action in one of the scenes. The Laboratory will be holding workshops in June, click here for details: [Training](#)

Works in Progress: it is expected that the web-based portal to our LIMS will be operational at the end of June. Staff members will be providing training on the use of the LIMS portal in June. Renovation of space for the Firearms section is in progress. Bench work has been installed and their section should be completed in June. The Latent Print office has been painted and the floor tiled. We will plan an open house this Summer. The Laboratory will host a meeting of the RI Detectives Association on July 2, 2019.

• FUNDING

The Byrne Grants have not been released. The Lab’s FY2020 budget is being considered by the legislature. The State Crime Laboratory Commission, at its recent meeting, agreed to send a letter to the House and Senate leadership requesting that funding for a Scanning Electron Microscope be restored to the FY2020 request. The RI Police Chiefs Association has also agreed to send a letter in support of this funding. If you meet with your State Representatives and/or Senators, remind them of the good work of the State Crime Laboratory. As always, if you have an opportunity to speak with our Federal Senators and Representatives or their staff members, 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.

• PERSONALS

Hebert Leon MacDonell (‘55) passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at the age of 90. Herb is credited with the invention of the Magna Brush and is referred to as the “Father” of bloodstain pattern analysis. Herb was a member of the BCI class of 1955 and assisted Dr. Harold Harrison, the founder of the Laboratories for Scientific Investigation (which became the State Crime Laboratory) as a graduate student. Herb was honored in 2004 by the University of Rhode Island which conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Science degree (ScD). The URI Library houses a collection of his case files.

Dennis Hilliard’s (‘80) daughter, Danielle, gave birth to Isabella Elise Fanning on April 27th (his 2nd grandchild). Jane Northup (‘11) successfully completed her doctoral program and received her Ph.D. in Education at the University of Rhode Island on Saturday, May 18th.