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

The 65th ANNIVERSARY Meeting of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

The meeting will be held at the L’Antica Trattoria @ St Bart’s Club in Providence. 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, March 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 L’Antica Trattoria @ St Bart's Club, http://www.stbartsclub.com/, is located at 66 Sophia St, Providence, RI 02909, (401) 942-0640. See Menu below for Entrée Choices. Please indicate your entree, soup and dessert choice(s) when you make your reservation or when you send your check. There are two small parking lots adjacent to the restaurant. There is also on street parking on Sophia Street.

MENU

Appetizers @ the table: Calamari, Stuffed Mushrooms, Fried Ravioli, Bruschetta and Fried Zucchini.

Soup: Minestrone or Chicken Noodle soup.

Entrees (Choose One): Chicken Parmigiana, 12oz Sirloin Steak, Baked Salmon, Baked Scrod or Vegetarian Eggplant Rollatini. All entrees served with Penne Pasta and Salad.

Dessert & Coffee: Coffee or Tea & Choice of Lemoncello Cake or Belgium Chocolate Mousse (Choose one).

RICA 2019 dues: Dues notices have gone out to departments that have paid RICA dues in the past. If your department will not pay your dues, please send a 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.
• SERVICE & TRAINING
The December meeting was held at the Spain Restaurant in Narragansett. This dinner was priced at $25 per person, so we had reservations for 108 members and guests. The meeting was attended by 104 members and guests. The association paid $42 per person for the dinner. This was accomplished by the funds raised at the RICA sponsored Cigar Dinner, which raised nearly $1,000 for the RICA. President Giusti felt that the membership deserved to benefit from that fundraiser. It was a great meeting and although it was the Annual meeting at which election of officers are held, a motion was made, seconded and passed by the members to suspend the election process. Therefore all officers remain in office until the next Annual meeting.

The raffle, which included wines, cigars, clothing from Stitches and other items, generated $1,140 in ticket sales, a record amount. After accounting for the differential cost of the dinner and the expenses for the raffle items the Association had a net loss of only $348 for the meeting.

The members voted to make two $500 donations to the Peace Dale Jonycake center in memory of Helen Palmer and to the St. Vincent DePaul Ministries in Providence. The treasurer sent the checks to both organizations.

The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on February 12, 2019 at the RIAG’s new Cranston facility. The Commission was presented with a copy of the Laboratory’s progress report for 2018. Case submissions were down 1.5% compared to last year, but the number of items submitted was up 26% over last year. The NED/IAI held their meeting in Newport in November, Kim Freeland, as President, presided over the meeting which was a great success. The 35 investigators enrolled in the BCI course completed the first semester in December and are well on their way to graduating in April 2019.

Works in Progress: it is expected that the web-based portal to our LIMS will be operational at the end of February. Staff members will be providing training on the use of the LIMS portal starting in March. Renovation of space for the Firearms section is in progress. Bench work has been installed, with more bench work planned for delivery and installation this spring. The FA lab has moved to its new location. Latent Prints will move into the old FA lab space shortly while their office and lab are painted and the carpet in their office replaced with tile. Other improvements are planned for the old FA lab. We will plan an open house this Spring. The Laboratory will host a meeting of the RI Detectives Association on July 2, 2019. Workshops are being planned for June 2019.

• FUNDING
The Laboratory's State FY2019 budget is adequate at this time. The FY2017 Byrne grant funds may be released soon as a court has found the restrictions placed on these funds, prior to distribution, were unconstitutional. While the FY2020 budget included a request for a bench-top SEM at a cost of $180,000, the Governor’s recommended budget for the State Crime Laboratory for FY 2020 was about $170,000 less than requested. If this remains unchanged the Laboratory could not purchase the SEM with these funds. The State Crime Laboratory Commission, at its recent meeting, suggested trying to find alternative sources of funding for this instrument. 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
Dino Decrescenzo ('03) was sworn-in as the Chief of the Barrington Police Department on February 12, 2019. Sean Corrigan ('00), will be serving as Acting Town Manager of Narragansett starting February 20, 2019. Matthew Sutton ('06) will be delegated as Acting Chief of Narragansett on February 20, 2019. Robert Brown ('05) has retired from the Pawtucket Police Department, he is now an investigator for the RI ME. Sue Cormier ('14) has instituted and heads up a Cold Case Task Force in Pawtucket.

***Members who we have lost touch with: Jeff Allen ('91) South Kingstown/Charlestown PD; Joe Mattera ('91) Glocester PD; Roland Brule ('99) and Joseph Loiselle ('03) Warren PD; Craig Hawkins ('03) Scituate PD; Scott Godin ('06) North Providence PD; Michael Patnaud ('11) Cranston PD; Peter Provencal ('13) Cumberland PD; and Jeff Dellafratte ('15) Middletown PD. If you have active contact information for these members, please relay that information to me at dhilliard@URI.edu. Thank you!