August 10, 2018

TO: ALL RICA MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

FROM: DENNIS C. HILLIARD - RICA TREASURER

RE: QUARTERLY MEETING OF RICA

The quarterly meeting of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2018. There will be no guest speaker.

The meeting will be held at the East Warren Rod & Gun Club, Warren, RI. Cocktails at 6:00 PM, meeting at 6:15 PM, Chowder at 6:30PM followed by dinner. This will be the Association's Annual Clam Boil, prepared by Chief (Ret.) Pare of Warren. Since we need to guarantee fifty (50) meals  
Maximum of 70*, you will be required to send a check to the Laboratory to confirm your attendance at this dinner. (Call the Laboratory at 874-2893 or email dch@uri.edu for a reservation – first come, first served!) Please send your check, made out to RICA, for $35.00 to: 048 Fogarty Hall - URI, Kingston, RI 02881-1966 by September 14, 2018.

Directions to the East Warren Rod & Gun Club (http://ewrg.org): From points West of Warren: RT. 136 (Market Street) to RT. 103 (Child Street). Head east on RT. 103 past a Warren School building and bear right. At the 5th intersection (RT. 103 and Long Lane), take a right onto Long Lane. The Rod & Gun Club is 100 yards down on the left.

Don’t forget to bring a few extra dollars for the Raffle which will feature liquor, beer, baked goods, a pumpkin and various items collected at the recent IAI meeting.
• SERVICE & TRAINING

The June meeting was held at Cafe Dolce Vita in Providence. Fifty-two members and guests enjoyed the meal. The weather was beautiful and there was live music on the DiPasquale Plaza. Below are a two pictures of the evening event:

The raffle, which included wines and cigars provided by President Al Giusti, generated $490 in ticket sales and netted the Association $279 after expenses.

The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on July 11, 2018 at the Laboratory. The Commission was presented with a copy of the Laboratory’s progress report for the first half of 2018. Case submission was the same as last year with the number of items submitted slightly higher (4%). The 17th Annual Training Conference of AFQAM will take place in Providence in October (Jane Northup) and the NED IAI will hold their meeting in Newport in November (Kim Freeland will accept a donation of $500 from RICA as a sponsor for the meeting). The Laboratory staff compiled three years (2015 – 2017) of firearms statistics for the Governor’s office through a request from the RISP. The Laboratory will implement the ISO 17025:2017 guidelines in 2019. The next Criminal Investigation: Scientific Evidence class will start September 7th. There is one seat available.

Works in Progress: it is expected that the web based portal to our LIMS will be operational by September. Staff members from the RISCL and the RIDOHFSL attended training on the use of the LIMS portal in June. Plans to renovate space for the Firearms section and for the Crime School training in the lower level of Fogarty Hall are moving forward. The plan is to have the mock crime scene room ready for the BCI class in September. The Laboratory sponsored two interns this summer.

Evidence receiving times are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:30AM & 1:30PM. Call the Laboratory and make an appointment for Evidence that needs to be delivered outside of those days and times. Due to construction around the building, parking is limited and access will be easier from the East and West building entrances, park either in the large East lot or along Lower College Road. Use the side entrance and go to the first floor, follow the corridor to the center stairs and go down to the Laboratory’s Main entrance.

Out in the Field: The Laboratory presented four (4) training sessions in June: Scientific Basics of Fingerprints/Palm Prints-Recording; Advanced Latent Print Enhancement and Documentation Techniques; Documentation of Death Investigations & How to Handle BBP/PPE Safety Workshop, and a Photoshop Workshop. RICA sponsored breaks for each workshop.

• FUNDING

The Laboratory's State FY2019 budget is adequate at this time. The FY2017 Byrne grant is still pending. The FY2020 budget will include a request for a bench-top SEM. If you meet with your State Representatives and/or Senators, remind them of the good work of the Crime Laboratory and the need for fully funding the Laboratory.

As always, if you have an opportunity to speak with our 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.

• PERSONALS


Ed Schilke (1976), Westerly PD, was in Yale New Haven Hospital from July 10-20. He had an Aortic Dissection. He had open heart surgery to repair the tear on July 13th. He is home and recuperating: ed@edschilke.com

Jim Dube (1991), East Providence PD, is undergoing stem-cell infusions in California to help improve his health, a fundraiser was held in East Providence on July 10th. RICA purchased two raffle tickets, the event and raffle raised $50,000 toward Jim’s medical expenses.