



RHODE ISLAND CRIMINALISTICS ASSOCIATION
c/o Rhode Island State Crime Lab
048 Fogarty Hall – URI
41 Lower College Road
Kingston, RI 02881
Phone: 401-874-5056

August 26, 2026

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 24, 2026.**

The meeting will be held at the East Warren Rod & Gun Club, Warren, RI. Social at 6:00 PM, meeting at 6:15 PM, Chowder at 6:30 PM followed by dinner. This will be the Association's Annual Clam Boil, prepared by Chief (Ret.) Bob 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 874-5056 or email dhilliard@uri.edu for a reservation!)**

Please send your check, made out to **RICA**, for \$50.00 per person to: **41 Lower College Road, 048 Fogarty Hall, Kingston, RI 02881-1966 by September 17, 2026. If you use Venmo, you can send payment, friend to friend (private), to @Dennis-Hilliard-1, label it: RICA dinner.**

Menu: New England Clam Chowder, Ocean Fresh Steamers (served family style w/drawn butter), New Bedford Scrod, Saugy Franks and assorted Sausages, Sweet and Red Potatoes, Onions, Home Made Quahog Dressing, Corn-On-The-Cob and Watermelon.

Directions to the East Warren Rod & Gun Club (<https://www.ewrgclub.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 some cash for the Raffle. RICA and RISCL Challenge Coins will be available for sale!

• SERVICE & TRAINING

The June RICA meeting, held at George's of Galilee in Narragansett, was well attended by sixty-eight members and guests; everyone enjoyed the food. Special thanks to Wakefield Liquors and Len Andrews for raffle contributions, and to Barbara Fraiser for assisting with the dinner attendee sign-ins. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer were present. This was the fourth meeting of the RICA held at George's of Galilee. RICA voted to purchase four (4) tickets to the Cumberland PD IOZZI Family Fundraiser, Captain Chris Iozzi lost their home to a fire on June 13, 2026. Four members were provided with the tickets to the fundraiser. The Cumberland PD is hosting a Forensic Death Investigations training program, contact [Peter Sweet](#) for details.

Progress Report for 2026 January – June: There was a 10.6% decrease (176 vs. 197) in the number of new cases and a 12.2% decrease (913 vs. 1,040) in the number of exhibits submitted to the Laboratory from January 1 to June 30, 2026, compared to the same period in 2025. The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on July 9, 2026 at the Crime Laboratory (URI). At this meeting the Commission Chair recognized the newly appointed Commission Members that the Governor had nominated for which the RI Senate had provided Advice & Consent. Ms. Erin Forry replaced Nancy Haley and Mr. Michael DiLauro replaced Linda Bachand-Jackson. Mr. DiLauro and Ms. Forry were both present at the July 9, 2026 meeting.

Laboratory staff made thirteen (13) presentations during this period. Laboratory staff members attended twenty-eight (28) training programs, on-line and in-person. There were twenty-two (22) tours of the State Crime Laboratory and eleven (11) interviews. The Laboratory hosted two Photography Workshops in June and July and hosted the July meeting of the RI Detectives Association. The Laboratory provided two internships in June and July. Jim Medeiros attended the annual IAI conference in St. Louis, MO. JD. Mark and Jim will be attending the NEDIAI conference in VT this fall.

We were recently notified that we are one of 194 agencies due for an upgraded IBIS/NIBIN workstation. We completed an application for \$300,000 for a new workstation and a five year service agreement.

The 2026-2027 class has thirty-seven (37) registered officers, with twenty-five (25) on the 2027-2028 class list, recognizing the quality and value of this program!

The Forensic Science Partnership (FSP) is gearing up for the Fall 2026 term to present seminar programs relevant to criminal investigations and forensic science. Many of the previous seminars have been recorded and are available for viewing through the [FSP website](#). The schedule for the Fall 2026 seminars will be posted at the website in late August. If you are interested in presenting a seminar or have a speaker to recommend, please let me know.

Interesting links: [AI and Fingerprints](#), [Forensic Response to 9/11](#), [New Tech added to Flock cameras](#), [Drone technology for active shooters](#).

FUNDING

The FY2027 was approved by the General Assembly. If you meet with your State Representatives and/or Senators, remind them of the work of the State Crime Laboratory and ask them to support the State Crime Laboratory. We received funding to replace our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in the FY2027 budget. It will take about one year to implement the new system.

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 equipment, supplies, and training opportunities not covered in the budget. We will be submitting a Byrne/JAG application to purchase a Virtual Comparison Microscope (VCM) system for fired bullets and cartridge cases.

• PERSONALS

David Detora ('87) has notified the Laboratory that he will be retiring from the RI Office of the Medical Examiner this summer. This is his second retirement as he is retired from the Johnston PD. He will continue teach in the BCI course.

Jane Northup ('11) has notified the Laboratory that she will be retiring effective January 9, 2027. Congratulations!

Melissa Rand ('15) has been promoted to the rank of Captain of the RI State Police. Congratulations!

Alec Wyers ('24) has completed his training as a Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner in the Laboratory and has been reclassified to the position of Criminalist I Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner. Congratulations!