



**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

**November 8, 2023**

**TO: ALL RICA MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**  
**FROM: DENNIS C. HILLIARD, TREASURER**  
**RE: ANNUAL MEETING OF RICA**

The **ANNUAL Meeting** of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2023. RICA Association officers** will be nominated and voted on at this meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Carriage Inn Restaurant in North Kingstown. Cocktails and appetizers at 6:00 PM, meeting at 6:30 PM and dinner at 6:45 PM. **Cost is \$35.00 per member or guest.**

**Please call the Laboratory at 874-5056 or email [dhilliard@uri.edu](mailto:dhilliard@uri.edu) with your reservation(s) by COB Monday, December 11, 2023.** We need 40 reservations.

You can send a check made out to RICA to: Dennis Hilliard, 41 Lower College Road, 048 Fogarty Hall, Kingston, RI 02881-1966. You can also pay by cash or check at the door. Venmo option: @Dennis-Hilliard-1, put RICA Dinner in the “What’s it for?” line and make the transaction private.

Remember to bring some raffle cash with you.

The Carriage Inn <https://carriageinndining.com/>, is located at 1065 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852, 401-294-0466.

### **MENU**

***Appetizers:* Cheese, Crackers & Fruit Platter**

***Entree (Buffet Style):* Traditional Italian**

**Meatballs • Chicken Parmesan • Pasta Marinara •**

**Garden Salad • Rolls & Butter • Grated Cheese**

**\*Can Substitute Eggplant for Meatballs (vegetarian option)**

**RICA Annual 2024 dues of \$15.00 are due by 1/1/24. Dues can be collected at this meeting.**

**• SERVICE & TRAINING**

The September RICA meeting, held at the South Warren Rod and Gun Club, was well attended by fifty-five members and guests; everyone enjoyed the food and the raffle. Special thanks to Chief Pare and his staff for the meal preparation and to Wakefield Liquors, Len Andrews, and others for raffle contributions. Only the Treasurer was present. The raffle netted \$485.00. A motion was made to provide funding to the current Crime School class for snacks and water during breaks.. The membership voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay \$500 for each semester from the Association's account (\$1,000 total). A motion was made to donate \$250.00 to Disability Rights. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to purchase 150 challenge coins that would depict the State Crime Laboratory Emblem and the RICA emblem. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed for \$718.50. Members attending the December meeting will each receive a coin.

Progress Report for 2023 January – September: There was a 32.9% decrease (426 vs. 635) in the number of new cases and a 25.2% decrease (2,457 vs. 3,285) in the number of exhibits submitted to the Laboratory from January 1 to September 30, 2023, compared to the same period in 2022. Significant increases were in ADW (+8), Auto Theft (+17), Homicide (+4) and Stalking, Harassment (+5). The largest decreases were in Arson (-4), Firearms Violations (-241), and Larceny (-6). Section Backlogs: LP 11; FA 113; NBN 34; Toolmark 0; TR 20: (as of 10/3/23). Backlogs are down for 2023 versus those in 2022.

Cort Burke ('23), recently hired as the Evidence and NIBIN Technician, resigned his position in November. Kit Beagan ('05) has agreed to work part-time as the NIBIN Technician until we can fill the position. Alec Wyers ('23) is in training as a Firearm and Toolmark examiner. JD Edwards and Jim Medeiros attended the 2023 Annual IAI International Forensic Educational Conference in MD and the NEDIAI conference with Mark Zabinski in NH. Amy Duhaime and Jane Northup attended AFQAM Training Conference held in TX.. Jane attended virtually and Amy attended in-person. Amy and Dennis Hilliard will attend the NEAFS conference in CT this week. Neil Clapperton, Emilio Alvarado and Alec Weyer will be attending the NorthEast Firearms Examiners meeting to be held in Meriden, CT, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The Laboratory will be hosting a three-day workshop on Courtroom Testimony, January 22 - 24, 2024. The workshop is presented by TriTech Training in partnership with the International Association for Identification. Course flyer and registration: <https://www.tritechtraining.com/012224-ctfsp.html>.

The 2023-2024 BCI course began on September 8, 2023, with 36 attendees. This course continues to be in high demand in RI and Southeast MA. New members were voted into RICA: Cort Burke, Alec Wyers (Active, RISCL), George Grande (Associate, RIME), Ken DeMarco (reinstatement Active, RISP), and the 34 members of the BCI class of 2023-2024. New Associate Members to be voted on in December: Roland Daigle and Danny Sendroff.

The Forensic Science Partnership (FSP) is in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of seminar programs relevant to criminal investigations and forensic science. Many of the previous seminars were recorded and are available for viewing through the [FSP website](#). The schedule for the Fall 2023 seminars is posted at the website. If you are **interested in presenting**, contact Director Hilliard. Det. Jim Clift (Prov. PD), Alexis Donaway, Cara Lupino, Leslie Nolan (RIDOH/FSL), Neil Clapperton (RISCL), Chief (Ret.) Anthony Silva, Danny Sendroff, and AAG (Ret.) Jack McMahon are providing presentations for the FSP 2023 Fall Seminar.

**• FUNDING**

The proposed FY2024 is in progress, and we are working on the FY2025 request. 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 our FY2025 budget request.

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.

**• PERSONALS**

[Gerald D. Driscoll](#) ('92), retired Deputy Chief of the Narragansett PD, passed away unexpectedly on October 26, 2023. Dennis Hilliard ('77) was recognized with the Arnold Markle "Distinguished Forensic Scientist Award" on October 23, 2023. The Markle Awards are presented to individuals who have achieved the highest levels of expertise in their chosen fields. The Markle Symposium of the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science is honored to pay tribute to these extraordinary men and women.