



RHODE ISLAND CRIMINALISTICS ASSOCIATION
c/o Rhode Island State Crime Lab
048 Fogarty Hall – URI
41 Lower College Road
Kingston, RI 02881
Phone: 401-874-2893

May 17, 2024

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

The **June Quarterly Meeting** of the Rhode Island Criminalistics Association will be held on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**.

The meeting will be held at the George's of Galilee in Narragansett. Cocktails at 6:00 PM, meeting at 6:30 PM and dinner at 6:45 PM. **Cost is \$40.00 for members and \$45 for guests.** George's: georgesofgalilee.com, is located at 250 Sand Hill Cove Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, Phone: (401) 783-2306. **Reservations are limited to 65 attendees**, so get your reservations in promptly.

Please call the Laboratory at 874-5056 or email dhilliard@uri.edu with your reservations by COB Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

You can send a check made payable 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 is also an option: use @Dennis-Hilliard-1, put RICA June Dinner in the "What's it for?" line and make the transaction private.

Remember to bring some raffle cash with you.

MENU

Appetizer: Rhode Island Chowder and Garden Salad
Clam Cakes (Courtesy of the Narragansett PD)

Entrees: Buffet style dinner:

Baked Stuffed Flounder, signature Italian herb Ritz cracker stuffing.
Smoky Mountain Tenderloin Tips, grilled bell peppers and onions.
Chicken Margarita, prosciutto, roasted red pepper, fresh mozzarella.
Served with Rosemary Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables.

Dessert: House made Apple Crisp

If you have not yet paid your RICA 2024 dues (\$15.00), you will be dropped at this meeting.

• SERVICE & TRAINING

The March RICA meeting, held at the Greenwood Inn Restaurant in Warwick, was well attended by fifty-one members and guests; everyone enjoyed the food and the raffle. Special thanks to Wakefield Liquors, Tino Natale, Len Andrews, John Heston, and Mark Zabinski for raffle contributions. The President and Treasurer were present. The raffle netted \$250.00. This was the 70th Anniversary meeting and a cake was provided depicting the RICA and RISCL emblems. RICA/RISCL challenge coins were given to members who attended the this meeting and had not attended the December Meeting. Coins are also available for purchase at \$5.00 per coin.

Progress Report for 2024 January – March: There was a 36% decrease (113 vs. 177) in the number of new cases and a 37% decrease (572 vs. 906) in the number of exhibits submitted to the Laboratory from January 1 to March 31, 2024, compared to the same period in 2023. The types of cases which increased this period, compared to the same period last year, include: Arson, Homicide, Larceny, and Robbery. The types of cases which decreased this period, compared to the same period last year, include: Auto Theft, Firearms Violation, Sexual Assault, and Rape. The Departments which increased their submissions to the Laboratory by at least two cases compared to the same period last year were: Barrington, Burrillville, Central Falls, Newport, North Kingstown, North Providence, and Woonsocket. The Departments which decreased their submissions to the Laboratory by at least three cases compared to the same period last year were: Coventry, Johnston, Pawtucket, Providence Fire, Providence PD, and RI State Police. The RI State Crime Laboratory Commission met on April 11, 2024, at the Attorney General's Office in Cranston and approved Ed Poirier's appointment to the Techn.

Edmund Poirier has been authorized to accept and return evidence, he has improved out IT service issues and has begun his training on NIBIN entries. Alec Wyers continues his training as a Firearm and Toolmark Examiner. Dennis Lyons worked as an instructor at the ATF National Academy in March. Jane Northup and Amy Duhaime attended in-person OSAC Subcommittee meetings in April and May, respectively. Dennis Hilliard attended the ASCLD Meeting in April/May. Jim Medeiros coordinated the Summer Internship applications; two applicants were selected for the 2024 Summer Internship program. The Laboratory hosted two tours for the URI Golden Grad 50th reunion event at URI in May. Neil Clapperton will attend the AFTE Training Conference in May.

The 2024-2025 BCI course, will begin on September 6, 2024 with 36 attendees and 23 on a wait list. This course continues to be in high demand in RI and Southeast MA. The 2025-2026 class will be nearly filled with the wait list from the 2024-2025 list. If your department plans to send an officer to the 2025-2026 class they should request to hold a spot now.

The Forensic Science Partnership (FSP) is in its 25th 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 2024 term will be posted at the website at the end of August. If you are interested in providing a seminar please send an email to dhilliard@uri.edu.

• FUNDING

The proposed FY2025 budget was submitted to the Governor through URI and is being considered by the Senate and the House. 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

James Medeiros ('05) is the President of the New England Division of the International Association for Identification (NEDIAI) in 2024. Their [Annual Meeting](#) will be held in Newport, RI, October 14-17, 2024.

Congratulations to Mark Carrier ('01) who was recently appointed and sworn in as Chief of the Hopkinton Police Department. Mark Carrier started his career with the Westerly Police Department and rose through the ranks to become a detective sergeant. In July 2010, he transitioned to the Hopkinton Police Department.

Congratulations to Jeanne Natale ('02) for starting a new position with the State of Massachusetts.

Many thanks to Amy Duhaime ('96) and Jane Northup ('11) for leading the effort to maintain the Crime Laboratory's ISO 17025:2017 accreditation during the recent audit in March and April, while implementing the new IDEAGEN document tracking system.