

# Salmon River Board Issues Warning To Section 10

**BY ELLEN EMERY**  
**FORT COVINGTON** — A proposed league realignment of Section Ten athletic teams involving the local school districts within the section has raised the ire of Salmon River Central School District officials.

The district has discussed opting to go independent in its athletic competition if the proposed league realignment is instituted. District officials had indicated the section has threatened to deny Salmon River's voting privileges if they go independent.

Salmon River has "advised" the section that this action by the section is "unacceptable to the district" and any attempt to impose such a penalty could "possibly" initiate court action against the section or find the district withdrawing its funding for the position of section coordinator.

SRCS Superintendent Robert A. Jaeger told school board members that all the district was asking was "to compete locally with traditional rivals," which he added, "we feel is being denied us."

Jaeger told North Athletic Conference President Richard Nelson, in an April 18 letter, that it was his hope that "we can resolve our differences in a more amiable manner rather than have a constant escalation of moves and counter-moves."

But, this call for a friendly settlement is preceded by the district's declaration that their position on league realignment "remains unchanged."

In the April 18 letter, Jaeger informs NAC President Nelson that if the section would choose to impose a penalty on the district, "there is a distinct possibility that the district would withdraw funding for the position of intercollegiate athletics."

Instituting "litigation" is also another "distinct possibility," the Salmon River letter said.

Jaeger explained that if the section imposed penalties on the district, "we (SRCS) would challenge... we would go to court and get a decision," he said, noting that this was only a possibility and not an absolute.

"We are currently exploring options open" to the district, the letter states, for the sports of basketball, soccer, baseball and softball.

Jaeger told the Observer that the league had "apparently been doing

some experimentation with league alignment" during the past few years.

He said this was the second year of a two-year experiment. "In essence, we're forcing our district to compete with teams that are a long distance away and teams that are not our traditional rivals."

Jaeger explained that Salmon River's "major problem is in basketball."

He said that if the problems cannot be resolved, Salmon River "may go independent."

SRCS Athletic Director W. Hastings Perkins told school board members that by going independent, "we would go to our local rivals." He also explained that SRCS could be "selective" and go independent in certain sports.

Jaeger said he was concerned about the students' opportunities, indicating "the best of our knowledge (as an independent school) we could compete in section and state championships, but would probably be seeded last."

The proposed league realignment would put SRCS in a B/C league, Jaeger said.

The league would be divided into two leagues, B/C and D, he said. "Because of our size we are a C school," he said.

The size designation is established based on student enrollment in grades 10-12, he said.

The B/C league would be comprised of Canton, Gouverneur, Malone, Massena, Norwood, Norfolk, Ogdensburg, Potsdam, St. Lawrence Central, SRC and Tupper Lake, Jaeger said.

He pointed out that a trip to Gouverneur, Canton and Ogdensburg are all "long trips."

Perkins pointed out that SRCS was presently addressing the sport of boys' basketball.

Within this proposed realignment, Jaeger said, "the only schools, I would consider traditional rivals are Malone, Massena and St. Lawrence."

"Our rivals are Brushton, Chateaugay and St. Regis Falls," he said, adding "which is one of our concerns."

Jaeger said that another SRCS concern was that "even though we are classed as an eligible 'C' school, because of the number of programs we run, some of our sports are just not competitive."

He had told the school board that because of the number of sports

SRCS offers, "we do not have the percentage of students to draw from."

In their winter sports program, SRCS "runs a four sports program," Jaeger said, offering hockey, swimming, rifle and basketball. He told the board, "we are spreading ourselves thin."

Jaeger pointed out the "size differential" of local schools. Massena has 710 students (in grades 10-12), Franklin Academy (Malone) 713, St. Lawrence Central 254, Canton 356, Gouverneur 476, Ogdensburg 537 and Potsdam 388.

Salmon River has 324 students in grades 10-12, he said.

"We have spoken with our coaches," he said, adding, "they share my concerns."

Jaeger told board members that "it appears at this point we are headed for a league alignment we are not particularly happy with."

"One potential solution is to go independent," he told the board.

Perkins reported to the board the proposed realignment would mean "much more travel."

He said the district was "investigating all possibilities...for the betterment of our program."

The board gave their approval to the Perkins request for authorization to continue to pursue the district's options.

A section vote on the proposed realignment is expected in May.

Section Ten is comprised of St. Lawrence County and Franklin County Schools, Jaeger said.



**PAST FIREMEN OF THE YEAR** — This elite group of volunteer firefighters are past recipients of the Fireman of the Year Award given annually by the St. Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association. The annual dinner was held Saturday night at the Woodlands Restaurant. Attending the dinner are, seated from left to right, William Reid, 1972 recipient from Massena; Joseph Finnegan of Madrid, president of the association; William Knowlton, the 1989 Fireman of the Year; Earl Mousaw, 1978 recipient from Hannawa Falls and current president of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York; and Wallace

Collins, 1981 recipient from Hannawa Falls. Standing are Lewis Hiter, 1980 recipient from Massena; Lyle C. Wood, 1977 recipient from Heuvelton and now residing in New Hartford, N.Y.; Glenn Rickett, 1987 recipient from Heuvelton; Emerson Forbes, 1976 recipient from Canton; Jack Nicholson, 1985 recipient from Norwood; Dominic Zappia, 1974 recipient from Norfolk; Thomas Frank, 1982 recipient from Colton; and Paul L. Wood, 1979 recipient from Heuvelton. Absent from photo are Jim Bogardus of Morristown, Stanley Richardson of Parishville, Howard Smith of Potsdam. (Mitchell Photo)

## Workers' Memorial

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one worker every 47 minutes is killed by a job-related injury. Thousands more die a slow death from cancer, lung disease or other disabling conditions caused by exposure to toxins at work.

Unions have fought for decades to improve conditions on the job. Many unions have made gains beyond what is required by law. Every

step forward not only benefits working people, but helps communities to control toxic chemicals in the environment.

The unions of the AFL-CIO chose April 28, the anniversary of the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970, as a day to remember brothers and sisters killed on the job across the nation.

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## Free Legal Consultation Is Available On May 1

**CANTON** — Free half hour legal consultations will be available through the St. Lawrence County Bar Association on May 1, as part of the association's celebration of "Law Day," Francis LaVigne, president of the association, has announced.

Those who contact the Bar Association before May 1 will be referred to an attorney who has volunteered to give a half hour office consultation at no charge.

Prior to May 1 people may call for consultations throughout the county at the following numbers: Canton, Potsdam, 386-4586; Massena, 769-3525; Ogdensburg, 393-1980; and Gouverneur, 287-4598.

Many people have legal problems and don't know where to turn. This

Bar Association program makes it easy and convenient for people who need legal help to find an attorney. Those who call will be referred to a lawyer who can answer their questions, the announcement said.

Law Day is a national celebration designed to educate Americans in their legal right and reflect on the unique rights that are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution, association Law Day Committee.

Included among its 70 members are lawyers and judges. The association works to enhance the integrity of the legal profession, improve public understanding of the law to assure equal justice under the law. Membership in the association is voluntary.



**WIN A NEW CAR** — The Massena Volunteer Emergency Unit is holding a drawing for this new Chrysler automobile on May 28. The winning ticket will be based on the New York State Lottery's "Daily Numbers-Pick Three" game. Tickets are available for \$20 from any member of the rescue squad. (Gray Photo)

## SRC Students Donate Blood At School Clinic

The following students and employees at Salmon River Central School recently donated blood at a blood clinic sponsored by the school.

Total statistics: 111 tried to give, 92 pints accepted, 74 first-time donors.

**Donors were:**  
**STUDENT DONORS:** Angus Adams, Stacy Babcock, Eric Bailey, Trace Barney, Maureen Benedict, Mike Benedict, Scott Benway, Shari Bigler, Fred Boardway, Jason Bombard, Frank Bova, Jeff Boyea, Trace Brownell, Tom Burt, Derek Cappiello, Bruce Carter, Keith Carter, Carolyn Cavanaugh, Almo Chambers, Joe Charlier, Tom Chubb, Jason Connors, Paul Cree, Cory Cunningham, Bret Donahue, Gary Dumville, Ricky Dupra, Nancy Elmer, Tammy Feinman, Dean Fleury, Eric Fleury, Penny Fleury, Denise Francis, Brent Fullum, And Jessica Gaglianese, Chris Gartner, Alex Garrow, Chris Godak, Tony Gray, Tracy Gray, Wesley Greenwood, Abigail Groleau, Kim Gunderson, Joakim Gustavsson, Dawn Hainault, Cathy Hall, John Holden, Kerry Holden, Gene Hurl, Louis Jackson, Kyle Jacobs, May Jo Jock, In addition, Mark Johnson, Phyllis Johnston, Joel

**NON-STUDENTS:** Wendy Cappiello, Sherielle Chapman, Korlene Crofoot, Carl Cross, Joan Cunningham, Pat Gaglianese, Connie Gerow, Patty Herra, Jane Johnson, Laurie LaPage, Joyce Letulipe, Sylvia Lauzon, Patricia Lecour, Jacquyn Montville, Doris Porter, Theresa Pontius, Carol Prosper, Jean Russell, Connie Schell.

**WORKERS:** Stacy Babcock, Tracie Barney, Mike Benedict, Penny Boardway, Tammy Boardway, Lori Brown, Carolyn Cavanaugh, Derek Cook, Eric Donahue, Nancy Elmer, Denise Francis, Chris Gardner, And Tony Gray, Carrie Griffin, Kim Gunderson, Jessica Jackson, Jeri LaPage, Trida Lauzon, Mary Ann Oskas, Billie Jo Phillips, Lynn Proper, Jeremy Ramon, Rosanna Ramon, Robert Rourke, Gwen Smith, Alex Smoke, Tammy Snyder, Steve Wood, Diana Zerella.

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P215/75R15	\$93.60	
P225/75R15	\$96.50	
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