

# STELLAR NEWS

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## Stellar Software

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## **Don Tauer**

Donald R. Tauer, director of Stellar National Software/Stellar Chiropractic Solutions for over 20 years, passed away suddenly on February 12th, 2009 at the age of 66.

He is survived by his wife Lori, ex-wife Sandy and sons Aaron and Chris.

Don was born the son of Larry and Marie Tauer on July 15, 1942 in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. He grew up on his parent's dairy farm, and was interested in science and engineering from an early age.

Over the years he worked as both a computer programmer and an electrical engineer (among other things), both for large corporations and for himself. He built his own home designed for solar power, was a small aircraft pilot and lately was working on his dairy goat collection and converting a bus into an RV.

He was a kind, caring and gentle man, and had acquired many

friendships over the years with his customers. We have all lost a good friend, support representative, and mentor. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words on the phone, cards, letters and e-mails. Thank you to all of Stellar's customers.

We greatly miss you Don...

## **What happens now?**

*From Josiah Reynolds*

Nothing, really. I've been working literally back-to-back with Don for 3 1/2 years, and I know virtually everything there is to know about supporting, developing and running Stellar. From your perspective, the only major difference is that Don will no longer be answering the phone, just as if he retired or is taking a long vacation. We will also be looking to hire another staff member in the very near future to help with development and/or support.

I will also do my best to continue the newsletter following Don's example. I'm not as up on current healthcare topics and issues as Don was, nor do I have his background experience with them, so I welcome any contributions you may have.

Lately there have been a number of worrying issues arising regarding the future of Chiropractic, and with the help of one of our doctors Don has been disseminating some information about these things in the newsletter. I will attempt to

continue this, but I fear we have lost one of Chiropractic's champions and his unique perspective on the situations facing us. I recommend re-reading some of our previous newsletters and his articles in them (you can find past newsletters on our website, [stellarchiro.com](http://stellarchiro.com), in the Resources section).

## **Wake Up Call**

*From one of our doctors:*

The wake up call is now. In Kansas the DC's can no longer use the term Chiropractic Physician, says the Attorney General of Kansas. In Oklahoma a similar battle is going on with HB 1569, sponsored by the son of a medical doctor, to take away physician status from DC's.

Wyoming DC's are up against PT's who demand the right to perform and bill spinal manipulation, and be called Doctors of Physiotherapy (by the way, PT's with a BS can take two-2hr online courses to get a MS or take three-2hr courses and receive a Doctorate; DC's cannot take these courses).

Once you lose the physician status you lose the ability to perform procedures and sign certain documents and your place in health care is in doubt. This can result in having to go through a gatekeeper to see patients or be written out of insurance policies, and losing the title Doctor is also being considered.

Every day there is a call to arms for the profession and it will continue until DC's realize that you can no longer ignore reality and go against the majority in healthcare. DC's, we are the problem and solution. It is within our grasp to advance our profession in such a manner that we will be automatically included in all healthcare reforms.

Notice that we always have to fight to be included in any plans; no other profession has this singular problem. This has been ongoing for over 100 years. State and National Associations and our colleges can not and will not rock the boat and make the necessary changes that can end the long going battles of DC's against the status quo majority.

The power to overcome our internal struggle lies within each single DC to demand that their State Board of Examiners require a full medical course from our colleges to place the advanced trained DC on the same level as a DO / MD G.P. DC's, ask this question, am I a part of a healing art profession or a religion? If your answer is that you are part of a profession, then what is holding you back? Inaction at this point in time could leave you far behind and out of healthcare

reforms.

There is a great need for G.P.'s with less than 2% of MD's & DO's going into general primary practice. This is a golden opportunity for the profession to advance and place all of our problems behind us. For those DC's already in practice there is a way to get you trained if you desire to become a part of the advanced trained medical DC's.

Each DC can make a call for change; the author cannot do this alone. Why are all of the ideas discussed above and in previous Stellar newsletters needed? Because the present form of the profession leaves us lacking and in a constant state of flux.

Please notice that many of our colleges offer medical courses in other fields; OMD Acupuncture, NMD, Massage Therapy, nursing, to name a few. Why is it that no college will quit playing games in education and get down to the real hard core issue of self evaluation? It is because they do not wish to upset the apple-cart of narrow minded DC's content with the status quo, but the colleges will offer up these courses to make money \$\$\$.

All talk without action is hollow on your part.

Doctors, have you called, written congress, the White House, our Colleges, State Rep.'s and become an active participant? Your author has.

Now it is your turn to get involved and not complain on the sidelines year after year. The future of our profession hangs on your shoulders and no one else, if you fail to act then be happy with whatever happens. No other profession has to prove itself over and over again; can you live with a limited medicare model or worse?

Go back and read all of the issues for the last 2 years of the Stellar newsletter and get busy. We can advance and be proud of our efforts if we only try.

## **Stellar Updates**

Recent changes and updates to Stellar (see [stellarchiro.com/update](http://stellarchiro.com/update) for complete list):

### **Paper Claims**

Fixed plan or insurance name wrongly printing in box 11d for Medicare.

### **Monthly, Yearly Summary**

Added line at end containing New Patient Visit Ratio, Charge/Visit, Collection/Visit, and Collection/Charge Ratio.

### **Patient Billing Programs**

"Use my own message" is now saved (when you print) and remembered.