Ever since the news broke of George Floyd’s senseless death, I have reflected on how many times I’ve been in this same place, feeling deeply sad, angry, and powerless to eradicate the racism that has gripped this country and our world for centuries. This past week, I’ve struggled, as a white woman, to know what to say, what to do, and how to be an ally when I cannot possibly understand how it is to be a black woman, man, or child. What I know, nonetheless, is this: We must stand with our brothers and sisters of color. We must stand against racism and social injustice. We must not stand by.

For decades, the accounting profession writ large has pursued diversity and inclusion initiatives to address the issues and create opportunities for all to feel welcome, valued, and critical to serving the public interest. Yet, progress is inconsistent at best. And, our efforts locally have been almost nonexistent in recent years but for the powerful workshop we hosted in 2018 with Dr. Nita Mosby-Tyler of The Equity Project.

No excuses. We must do more and better.

Personally, I am taking the first step by educating myself. I encourage you to do the same. Watch for educational opportunities the COCPA will offer. Contact me if you’re willing to help shape COCPA diversity and inclusion strategy. And, if you are a person of color, I see you, and I stand with you.

Mary E. Medley, CEO

mary@cocpa.org
NEW: Barry Melancon Coming to Colorado Virtually, June 24
COCPA.ORG
Join AICPA President and CEO Barry Melancon, June 24, for *Reimagining Accounting in Extraordinary Times*. This program, recommended for 1.5 hours of CPE credit, is free of charge for COCPA members and will include the opportunity to ask your questions in real time. Register HERE.

Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act Signed into Law, June 5, 2020
CONGRESS.GOV
Download and read the AICPA Summary of the Act at https://future.aicpa.org/resources/download/summary-of-paycheck-protection-program-flexibility-act

KEY FEATURES:
- Current borrowers have the option to extend the 8-week period to 24 weeks.
- The 75% payroll expenditure requirement is reduced to 60%.
- PPP borrowers may avoid FTE Reduction penalties if headcount is restored by December 31 instead of June 30.
- PPP borrowers can qualify for deferral of the employer’s share of payroll taxes available under the CARES Act.
- The repayment period for new loans is extended to five years.

BREAKING NEWS: Partial PPP Loan Forgiveness Remains if 60% Threshold Not Met
JOURNALOFACCOUNTANCY.COM

ALERT: #IRS Reminder:
EIPCARD.COM
Nearly four million people are receiving their Economic Impact Payment by prepaid debit card, instead of paper check, through the mail. These cards will be delivered in a plain envelope from Money Network Cardholder Services. Know what to expect www.eipcard.com #COVIDreliefIRS
Your COCPA is Here for You Remotely
COCPA.ORG

Contact your COCPA member service colleagues via online chat at cocpa.org, 303-773-2877, or 800-523-9082. Go to cocpa.org/COVID-19 for the extensive list of resources. Check out the AICPA resources page, as well, at aicpa.org. Ask questions, find answers, and share knowledge with your colleagues at COCPA CONNECT, www.cocpa.org/connect, your COCPA members-only, online community.

Updates

CPA Candidates Alert: NASBA CPA Exam NTS Extension Information
NASBA.ORG

NASBA, working with the Boards of Accountancy, has compiled the latest information on Notice to Schedule (NTS) extension information for each jurisdiction. For each jurisdiction where additional NTS extensions have been granted, nothing is required to obtain the extension. The NASBA CPA Candidate Account will be automatically updated with the extended NTS date. Candidates should allow up to two weeks for processing extensions and for records to be updated. The Colorado State Board of Accountancy has approved the extension of NTS’s with expiration dates of April 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

In addition, NASBA is in the process of creating a chart to provide jurisdiction by jurisdiction information on updated exam credit extension policies at https://nasba.org/ntsextensions.

Prometric Resource Center for CPA Candidates

- COVID-19 Strategies provides the most current information on Prometric’s operation status and safety measures.
- Essential Client Programs List provides the current list of essential test programs that are currently eligible to test.
- Site Openings List provides a running list of current open/scheduled-to-open sites and their resumption test date. This list is updated daily to reflect any changes in status and will be evaluated for further additions on a rolling basis.
- Social Distancing Policies provides a detailed look at the standard and social distancing policies and test center procedure modifications that candidates are expected to follow while at the test center.
- Test-Taker FAQ provides answers to candidates’ frequently asked questions.

FASB Approves Lease & Revenue Delay for Private Companies & NFPs
BKD.COM

On May 20, 2020, FASB reviewed feedback on its April 21, 2020, proposal to delay the effective date of Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 842, Leases, for private companies and all not-for-profits (NFP). Thanks to BKD LLP and author Anne Coughlan, CLICK HERE for details on FASB’s vote to expand the scope of the delay of ASC 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, to all entities for financial statements that have not yet been issued or made available for issuance.

AICPA PPP Loan Forgiveness Calculator Now Available
AICPA.ORG
The AICPA has created a loan forgiveness calculator based on PPP guidance from the U.S. Treasury and SBA (as of May 15, 2020, 11 a.m., EDT) and additional AICPA recommendations. This loan forgiveness calculator is divided into three sub-categories:

1. **Non-payroll expense tracking**, such as mortgage payments, rent and utilities;
2. **FTE (full-time job equivalent) reduction**, which tracks whether businesses shed any employees over the 8-week period;
3. **Payroll accumulator**, which helps small businesses capture the amount of eligible payroll costs and whether wages on a per employee basis declined in the 8-week covered period. These subfields are then used to make a loan forgiveness calculation.

The calculator relies on several assumptions contained in the AICPA's recommendations, such as how to calculate FTEs and aligning the 8-week covered period with the beginning of a pay period, rather than the date the PPP loan proceeds were disbursed. These assumptions are noted in the calculator template, as is a disclaimer that, in instances where SBA guidance is unclear, judgment and interpretation of the CARES Act may be necessary. The calculator does not handle self-employed individuals yet, due to the lack of guidance.

Access the calculator [here](#). Scroll down to “Calculators” and select the link.

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**Weekly News**

**NEW DORA Protocol for Colorado State Board of Accountancy Meeting Agendas**

The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies has adopted new requirements to protect confidential information of applicants and licensees for all the boards and commissions under its umbrella, including the Colorado State Board of Accountancy. Therefore, meeting agendas no longer list the names of CPA candidates, individuals, or firms which are up for consideration.

To determine if you are on a particular agenda, you may email dora_accountancyboard@state.co.us.

Note that the agenda is posted two weeks before scheduled meetings. The 2020 meeting dates are: June 24, August 5, September 23, November 4, and December 16.

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**FEEDBACK REQUEST: State Auditor Seeks Volunteers for Review Initiative**

The Colorado State Auditor’s staff is continuing to perform the review process on existing tax credits and exemptions provided in current Colorado statutes. They are seeking CPAs who are familiar with the New & Old investment tax credits contained in sections 39-22-507.5 & 507.6 C.R.S. If you are willing to provide feedback, please contact Russell Leonard, Tax Policy Analyst, Colorado Office of the State Auditor, russell.leonard@state.co.us.

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**CDOR HEARING: Virtual Rule-making Hearing on Sales Tax Rules, June 16, 10:00 a.m., MDT.**

Call-in or video conference information: Phone Number: +1 669 900 6833; Meeting ID: 919 1988 4440.

**Proposed Rules:**

- [Rule 39-26-102(3), Doing Business in this State](#)
CDOR Schedules Rule-making on Severance Taxes and Electronic Filing

The Division of Taxation is considering amending several current rules as well as proposing new rules. The Division staff seeks feedback on whether these proposed changes are necessary. **Send comments/suggestions to dor_taxrules@state.co.us** by June 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m., MDT. If the Department decides to move forward with any of these proposed changes or new proposed rules, additional comments will be accepted in addition to pursuing a formal rulemaking process.

**Rule 39-21-119.5, 1 CCR 201-1, Mandatory Electronic Filing of Returns and Mandatory Electronic Payment**

**Of General Interest:** The new rule would clarify electronic filing and payment requirements and clarify the penalties imposed for failure to comply. Although the draft rule will initially supply electronic filing requirements only for oil and gas severance tax withholding, the rule includes some general provisions that may be of interest for other types of taxpayers as additional tax types are added to the rule.

**For Severance Tax Stakeholders:** The rule prescribes the phase-in of electronic filing requirements for the annual report of oil and gas severance tax withholding pursuant to section 39-21-119.5(2)(d) and (3), C.R.S. The Department has inserted thresholds for the electronic filing phase-in; however, these thresholds are merely a starting point for discussion with stakeholders. As such, the Department would appreciate input regarding the appropriate phase-in thresholds.

**Special Rule 1, 1 CCR 201-1, Electronic Funds Transfer** - The amendment would repeal Special Rule 1, the pertinent parts of which have been codified in section 39-21-119.5, C.R.S., or promulgated in Rules 39-21-119 and 39-21-119.5.

**Rule 39-29-105-1, 1 CCR 201-10, Liability for Severance Tax on Oil and Gas** - The new rule would clarify the imposition of, and liability for, Colorado severance tax on oil and gas.

**Rule 39-29-105-2, 1 CCR 201-10, Ad Valorem Tax Credit** - The amendment would renumber the rule to accommodate an additional rule promulgated pursuant to the same statutory section.

**Rule 39-29-111, 1 CCR 201-10, Oil and Gas Severance Tax Withholding** - The amendment would clarify the reporting requirements for severance tax withheld from gross income from oil and gas and make other minor changes to improve readability and clarify the rule.
AICPA PRB Grants 6-Month Extension for Peer Reviews
JOURNALOFACCOUNTANCY.COM

CPA firms will be granted six-month extensions for peer reviews, corrective actions, and implementation plans with original due dates between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2020. Read the story HERE »

Opportunities & Resources

DEADLINE EXTENDED to July 6th, 2020! Know an outstanding executive? We want to honor him or her.
BIZJOURNALS.COM

Nominations are open for the Denver Business Journal C-Suite Awards. Winners will be selected for outstanding contributions to the Denver region based on leadership, contributions to his or her company, and community involvement. Click here to nominate someone online.