



Keep up to date on **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE™**

Inside information on how leading companies are managing cash and payments, in a fast-read format, twice a month.

August 17, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Sharpen Your Judgment**
Company restructuring: Was age involved in decisions?
- 3 Networking with Other A/P Pros**
Standardized our data before process change
- 5 Payables News**
Cash is king? Survey looks at payment preferences
- 7 Making Technology Work for You**
IRS reveals 'Dirty Dozen' list of scams for 2020: What to know
- 8 Sales and Use Tax Update**
The latest on technology, use tax and tax relief

CFO DAILY NEWS

CFO Daily News, part of the Catalyst Media Network, provides the latest finance and employment law news for finance professionals in the trenches of small-to-medium-sized businesses. Rather than simply regurgitating the day's headlines, CFO Daily News delivers actionable insights, helping finance execs understand what finance trends mean to their business.

3 keys to beat pandemic stress, boost A/P efficiency

■ Finance is feeling the pressure, survey finds

If you and others in A/P have been feeling more stressed lately, you're not alone.

The majority (66%) of finance professionals say they have higher stress levels due to the affects of the coronavirus pandemic, revealed a new survey from the A/P experts at AvidxChange.

What's more, since the pandemic began in mid-March, 26% of finance pros say they've been working longer hours and 21% admit they've lost sleep due to work-related stress.

Of course, added stress can have all sorts of negative impacts on you and

your team, from lower productivity and depleted morale to headaches and other health concerns.

And without a clear picture of just how long the pandemic will last, A/P should start working now to change the tides of stress.

Check out three ways to keep spirits and efficiency high in A/P:

1. Talk it out

Seems simple, right?

The reality, though, is talking about stress, anxiety or other negative impacts of work can be difficult for

(Please see Stress ... on Page 2)

High-risk summer storm season: Is A/P data safe?

■ Forecasters predict an 'above-average' hurricane season

Check that A/P data is protected – because 2020's hurricane season is going to be a rough one.

This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association predicted 13 to 19 named storms, of which six to 10 could become hurricanes.

To provide hindsight, a "typical" year has 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes.

Take a sec to check

There's already been a lot of business disruption in recent months

due to the pandemic, creating new challenges for your A/P team.

Maybe you recently assessed and revised A/P's business continuity and data storage practices. Or maybe things have been so hectic, you haven't had time to cross that bridge yet.

Either way, it's a good idea to check in with IT and ensure that all your A/P data and files are still getting backed up in the cloud or off-site.

That way, hurricane season won't wreak havoc on A/P's operations.

Info: bit.ly/storms522

Stress ...

(continued from Page 1)

some staffers and managers.

But that doesn't mean it should be ignored or glazed over.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages work teams to:

- Identify things that cause stress and work together to find solutions.
- Talk about how the coronavirus pandemic is impacting work.
- Clearly communicate work expectations to everyone.

2. Re-establish consistency

Before the pandemic, you and your team probably had a pretty set routine of when you got to work, took your breaks and called it quits.

During the pandemic, especially with more remote work and business disruption, that all might have gone out the window.

Developing a consistent daily routine (ideally one similar to your pre-pandemic schedule) could help you regain control and lower stress.

The CDC recommends you:

- Maintain a regular sleep schedule.
- Take breaks from work to stretch, exercise or check in with others.
- When remote, set a regular time to end your workday, if possible.

- Spend time outdoors and do things you enjoy during nonwork hours.

3. Connect your systems

On the more technical side, you know centralized, connected systems make A/P's work easier.

AvidxChange's survey also asked finance pros about their system integration and found 35% of teams have integrated systems, 13% have separate systems and 45% have a mix.

In other words, many finance teams still use at least two (and often more)

A/P should start working now to change the tides of stress.

different systems in their day-to-day processes. And trying to manage disconnected systems could be hurting efficiency and adding to the stress.

If you haven't yet, you'll want to talk to your CFO and IT to see if there's a better way to connect your systems or flow information seamlessly (e.g., an in-house configuration, new automation).

Info: AvidxChange bit.ly/avid522 and the CDC, bit.ly/CDC522

Sharpen your judgment

This feature provides a framework for decision making that helps keep you and your company out of trouble. It describes a recent legal conflict and lets you judge the outcome.

■ Company restructuring: Was age involved in decisions?

A/P Manager Jenn Smith was at her desk going over the company's new restructuring plan when she heard a knock on her door.

"Hi, Jenn," said HR Manager Harry Green. "I need to talk to you about Rob Vaughn."

Jenn frowned. "The A/P staffer we recently let go?"

Harry nodded. "He's suing us for discrimination. He thinks his age was involved in the decision."

'More qualified'

"What? He was let go because we're merging and switching up departments," Jenn said. "It's unfortunate his position was consolidated, but we didn't need two people doing one job."

"Another staffer, Amy, got the job," Harry clarified.

Jenn nodded. "Yes. We took note of age when we were comparing Amy and Rob, but that was only to have the info on record."

"I remember," Harry said.

"But Amy had more industry experience and better metrics than Rob," Jenn said. "Not to mention, her recent performance reviews were glowing. That's why she was picked for the job."

"Not because she was younger," Harry confirmed.

"Of course not," Jenn said.

Harry grimaced. "I just hope a court takes our word for it."

When the ex-staffer Rob filed an age discrimination claim, Jenn's company fought to get the case dismissed. Did the company win?

- *Make your decision, then please turn to Page 6 for the court's ruling.*



Keep up to date on
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE™

Keep Up to Date on Accounts Payable (ISSN 1098-0202), Issue date August 17, 2020, Vol. 23 No. 522, is published semi-monthly, except once in December (23 times a year).

Subscription: 800-220-5000

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: ALYSSA EVANS

aevans@pbp.com

MANAGING EDITOR: RENEE COCCHI

PRODUCTION EDITOR: JENNIFER ERB

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: CURT BROWN

Networking with Other A/P Pros

Our subscribers come from a broad range of companies, both large and small. In this regular section, three of them share success stories you can adapt to your own unique situation.

1 Standardized our data before process change

Today, many A/P departments are going through major process changes in hopes of becoming more efficient and cost-effective.

Our company decided to offshore some technical operations, like invoice processing and vendor creation, so our onshore team could focus more on strategic, analytical work.

The good thing was, a lot of vendors already used our self-service software. They could enter their own address, details, etc. But it was still important for us to monitor and

ensure data standardization.

So, we knew we couldn't just pass the torch to our offshore team and be done with it.

To set them up for success, we needed to provide accurate data and solid data management practices.

Up-front work

That's why, before offshoring any operations, we did an entire vendor maintenance standardization process.

We brought in experts who shared some best practices for data standardization.

The experts also

taught some of our A/P analysts to write codes and logics, like "if, then" statements.

This extra training and learning helped us lead by example. We couldn't take something to our offshore team and say, "Do it this way," if we weren't already doing it.

After, we felt confident that our offshore team had good practices to follow and accurate data to work with right from the start.

(Ryan McClintock, A/P Manager, T-Mobile, as presented at the A/P P2P Conference & Expo, Orlando, FL)

IMPROVING YOUR OWN A/P PROCESS

2 Checklists keep me on track and efficient

People often came to my desk with little questions or problems.

For example, employees would forget their software system password and need me to reset it.

Because I'm pretty good at multitasking and working without stopping, most of the time it didn't bother me.

But when there were distractions on days when I had to get payments processed, it seemed to take much

longer to get back on track.

I needed a way to be focused, efficient and organized on my busiest days, ensuring payments were made correctly and on time.

Quick references

Something that helps keep me from getting too sidetracked – especially when things are hectic – is a set of checklists that I refer to.

Among them are:

- tasks that must be done daily

- tasks that need to be done each week
- quarterly reports, and
- year-end projects, like generating Forms 1099 and W-2.

One area in particular where my checklists are a lifesaver is during the process of running audit reports, so I don't miss any vital steps.

My checklists are like having a GPS to guide me through my day, helping me prioritize tasks and save time.

(Cindy Maulick, Payroll Specialist, W. Atlee Burpee Co., Warminster, PA)

3 A more creative way to recognize employees

Our company's Employee of the Month award was a great idea ... about 20 years ago.

The structure was pretty simple: Employees were nominated, and managers picked the winner.

In fact, it was so rudimentary and expected, it wasn't encouraging great work anymore.

And a deserving employee might be passed over because people thought the person got the award too much.

It got to the point where we actually stopped giving nominations because it just wasn't working. No one cared anymore.

Mixing it up

It was necessary for our company to revisit our outlook on and approach to employee recognition.

So, we came up with Team Player of the Month, an initiative that was strictly colleague to colleague.

It took management out of the equation completely.

Employees nominate each other based on their contributions to the group and team efforts. Then we vote on a winner each month.

It's a win-win for both sides. Everyone is interested in giving the award to someone who really deserves it, and our people are all more motivated to win.

It's boosted morale and the team mentality in our office. And it means more on a peer-to-peer level.

(Krista Ciccozzi, Director of Technical Support, PracticeWorks Inc., Atlanta)

T&E Spotlight

T&E comprises 8%-12% of the average organization's total budget – and it's also one of the areas where A/P can make the most impact. This regular feature showcases the latest ways you can save time and money on processing travelers' expense reports and reimbursements.

AIRLINE POLICIES

Business travel – especially air travel – is still in a precarious state thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

To avoid fees and frustration as employees cancel, change and book flights, A/P should have a pulse on airlines' current policies.

Past and future travel

Check out some of the top U.S. airlines' current policies for previously booked and future travel:

1. American Airlines: Employees who booked flights for travel occurring through Sept. 30 can cancel or change their flights with no fees. (But if they rebook, the travel must happen by the end of 2021.)

And employees who booked flights more recently (through July 31) can also change their flights with no fee for travel occurring Oct. 1 and later.

For rebookings, employees may owe the difference in ticket cost.

2. United Airlines: This airline is waiving all change fees for flights booked on or before March 2 for travel through Dec. 31. But there are

different rules, depending on whether the original travel dates were March 3 to May 31 or June 1 to Dec. 31.

And if your employees booked any newer flights through July 31, United says they can change them over the next year and incur no fees.

3. Delta Airlines: For travel affected by the pandemic, Delta is waiving change fees. That includes flights purchased from March 1 through July 31 and flights departing from March 1 through Sept. 30.

Delta clarifies that unused flights will be applied toward new flights, and in some cases a price difference may need to be accounted for.

4. Southwest Airlines: Southwest doesn't charge fees to change or cancel flights. And normally, if an employee cancels a flight, the funds are available for them to use within one year.

Because of COVID-19, Southwest is extending the availability of funds. If employees cancel a flight between March 1 and Sept. 7, the funds won't expire until Sept. 7, 2022.

Info: To see more details and other U.S. and international airlines' policies, visit bit.ly/airlines522

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

■ Busting misconceptions about workplace productivity

The discussion on how to foster peak productivity often arises in A/P.

While some leaders may opt for a more casual style, others might push their staffers to the max.

And the unfortunate truth is that in many leaders' attempts to increase productivity, they may be doing quite the opposite.

To see if your office's methods are up to par, answer *True* or *False* to the following questions:

1. You notice a staffer often finishes their work early, before the day's end. It'd be best to let them be and not give them more work.
2. As a manager, you should regularly reward employees that are the first in and the last out.
3. One of your staffers takes coffee breaks, stretches their legs every so often or goes to the gym during their lunch hour. These actions could be a sign the staffer isn't being as productive as others.

ANSWERS

- Cite: bit.ly/productivity519 according to Psychology Today.*
1. *True.* Just because a staffer isn't constantly working doesn't mean they aren't reaching their full potential. One study hypothesized that the most effective people only work for 70% to 80% of the time they're clocked in for. If you try to get more out of them, they may end up underproducing.
 2. *False.* This popular adage has been used to praise employees' commitment time and again. Alas, expecting too long of hours can quickly burn out workers.
 3. *False.* Working without breaks is counterproductive to generating quality work. Breaks boost creativity, improve retention and help with mental health, according to Psychology Today.

Answers to the quiz:

Working with (high-quality) vendors

What are your company's top challenges with sourcing vendors?

Note: Respondents could pick more than one.



Source: Level Research, level.io

Some of the biggest concerns with bringing on vendors involve risk and reliability. So, from the payments end, A/P's insight can be useful in assessing potential and current vendors. Are there any financial or business risks you notice? What type of vendors are best to work with? Share your input.

Performance Boosters

To help our readers improve payables operations, KAP selects the best ideas from a variety of sources and presents them in a quick-read format.

Invoice leakage: Here's how to patch the holes

Plain and simple, managing various vendors' invoices can be tough.

And if A/P isn't able to review them thoroughly at a granular level, you can miss key details that result in computational errors, misapplication of pricing terms, overpayments and more.

To reduce "invoice leakage," biz expert Ajay Agrawal says to consider the limitations of your invoice receipt process. Is it manual? Is it partly digital, at a basic level? Does it capture just images or each specific line of data?

Next, think about what additions could help. More advanced tech with AI can turn the "passive elements" of invoice data into actionable objects.

Info: bit.ly/leakage522

Want to make your virtual meetings great? 3 key steps

Many offices are still forgoing in-person meetings – and likely will continue to in the future.

But keeping everyone's attention during virtual meetings can be tricky. Here are a few tips you can use to help everything go smoothly:

1. **Require 'Camera On.'** Some might groan, but seeing everyone's faces helps people feel more collaborative.
2. **Do a test run.** To avoid hiccups, make time before each meeting to verify your connection is good and your camera and audio are working.
3. **Make it snappy.** Meetings can be taxing. Keep them short and sweet, so people don't get tired or distracted.

Info: bit.ly/meetings519

'Taking out the trash' could save your company thousands

Let's face it: Your company, like many others, might waste a little.

Whether it's leftover office supplies or leases of unused assets, these costs

can really add up. To get rid of unnecessary expenditures:

1. **Cancel recurring orders.** Figure out what goes unused and discuss canceling those items. Even if it's just notepads or pens, it can help.
2. **Use or donate.** Push to get excess products out in the open where people will use them. If they still go unused, take them to a local drive.

Info: bit.ly/waste522

Hit the lights! This small fix could boost the office mood

During the pandemic, staffers may have worked in their favorite comfy chair or while basking in the sun.

So, returning to a dreary office space could be a downer. But there's a quick solution: Change your office's lighting. Natural light improves mood and energy, according to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In brainstorming/team spaces, use natural light to prevent fatigue. And in break rooms, suggest warm lighting instead to help staffers relax.

Info: bit.ly/lights522

SOFTWARE SKILL BOOSTER

How to make technology training stick with others

Teaching new software or programs to the office can be a drag.

To help training hit home:

1. Start by ensuring employees are clear on why this new tech's important.
2. Go through the training in small steps, and make time for plenty of one-on-one instruction.
3. Mention you're happy to offer additional training for anyone who's confused or wants more guidance.

Info: bit.ly/software519

If you have a story idea or comment to share, contact the editor at aevans@cfodailynews.com

PAYABLES NEWS

■ Cash is king? Survey looks at payment preferences

It may be a while before A/P stops reimbursing employees for on-the-go expenses they pay for with cash.

Even as card and mobile payment options grow, 55% of U.S. mobile users hate the idea of being without cash, 76% still carry cash and 45% say there's no reason to use mobile payments, per a survey by Origin.

To prevent cash purchases and manual receipts from holding back A/P, it may be good to gauge your employees' payment preferences and come up with an action plan.

Info: bit.ly/cash522

■ 5 states with precarious rules for online sales tax

Heads up, A/P: Some states' current sales tax codes could turn into legal challenges, say the experts at the Tax Foundation.

The five states they view as more susceptible to litigation now are:

- **Alabama, Colorado and Louisiana** (let localities define and handle their own sales tax rules, creating a lack of uniformity)
- **Kansas** (still doesn't have a small seller collection exception), and
- **Texas** (lets remote sellers choose to collect at a statewide rate or source sales to jurisdictions and collect at the local rate).

See more on each state below.

Info: bit.ly/litigation522

■ Staffers cite higher quality of work during the pandemic

While the coronavirus has likely created a lot of problems for A/P operations, here's a positive note you can share with your staff.

Amid the pandemic, 64% of U.S. workers say their quality of work has improved and 70% reported better collaboration, found KPMG LLP.

Regularly reminding staffers how much you value them could help further their hard work.

Info: bit.ly/covid522

How to build a better, stronger relationship with your CFO

■ 5 tips to stay in sync at all times

In A/P, you have to collaborate with all kinds of people and personalities. And perhaps the most important person for you to work seamlessly with is the CFO.

Your A/P team brings the technical process expertise. Your CFO brings the strategic, bottom-line perspective.

And when those two come together effectively, the result is a successful A/P function.

Get inside their head

Check out five tactics designed to get any CFO listening and keep your relationship on track:

1. Stick to the numbers. CFOs are all about facts and figures, and trying to appeal to them emotionally may not get A/P very far. For example, if you talk to your CFO about making the invoice process more collaborative, don't talk too much about how it'll help morale. Dive right into how it'll get payments out faster and boost discount capture.

2. Be an open (information) book. Be ready and eager to share data with the CFO. (It's a plus if data includes

some strategic analysis, too.) Even if your CFO doesn't look at every little figure in depth, it'll show them you are confident enough in your work and metrics to display them.

3. Think about the big picture. To stay competitive, you know A/P must exceed expectations by proposing ideas with the future in mind. Not only does this show you're invested in the company for the long haul, but it shows the CFO you could be a candidate for a leadership position later on.

4. Communicate consistently. If possible, set up a regular meeting time to talk with your CFO about your thoughts, pain points and goals for A/P. Getting a routine time on their schedule will ensure you continue to build your relationship and stay on the same page.

5. Watch the clock. Whenever you do talk with your CFO, avoid getting too caught up in the granular aspects. Translate your thoughts into a quick summary and get straight to the point. Time is precious, and your CFO will appreciate your conciseness.

Info: bit.ly/cfo519

outperformed Rob, and nothing in the files indicated the presence of any discriminatory intent.

Analysis: Document thoroughly

This case shows how vital it is to keep accurate, detailed records.

If Jenn's company wasn't able to support its claims about Amy's credentials, the case could've gone in a different direction. Thorough documentation can be the key to proving your point and avoiding lengthy legal battles.

Based on Zabala-De Jesus, et al. v. Sanofi-Aventis Puerto Rico Inc. Fictionalized for dramatic effect.

MISTAKES THAT COST

This regular feature shows how companies and individuals have run afoul of state or federal laws. See how others got off track so you can avoid similar problems.

Fake vendor scheme nets 3 years in prison

Individual: Kenya Dake, former comptroller and office manager for a consulting firm in Indianapolis.

Violation: Dake pleaded guilty to charges of wire fraud and money laundering, stealing about \$540,000 from the firm over four-and-a-half years.

Penalty: She was sentenced to more than three years in federal prison and to repay the stolen money.

Note: Dake carried out her scheme by connecting her personal bank accounts to fake vendors that she had added to the firm's bookkeeping system. Once she had her hands on the stolen money, she used it for expensive jewelry and trips to Aruba.

Cite: bit.ly/dake522

Corrupt purchaser used p-card to steal \$70K

Individual: Michael Donaher, former inventory management specialist at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Brockton, MA.

Violation: Donaher pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement and theft of public money, property or records, having stolen around \$70,000 from the VA.

Penalty: A judge will sentence him this September. Donaher faces up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a six-figure fine.

Note: One of Donaher's duties was purchasing equipment for the VA medical facility. He misused his government-issued p-card to make unauthorized purchases and route proceeds to his own bank account.

Cite: bit.ly/donaher522

Sharpen your judgment THE DECISION

(See case on Page 2)

Yes, the company won when a court granted summary judgment.

Rob's attorney cited the references to the two staffers' ages during the comparison process as an indicator of the company's age bias.

But the court disagreed. Simply asserting a staffer's age, even in the context of comparison, doesn't establish bias. Existing documentation supported the claim that Amy had more experience and consistently

IRS reveals 'Dirty Dozen' list of scams for 2020: What to know

■ All kinds of tricky schemes are out there this year

Your department always has to have an eye out for scammers – especially those impersonating IRS.

Fortunately, the Service's annual list of "Dirty Dozen" scams can show you what tactics criminals are using now, so you can keep private payment details under lock and key.

Top 6 threats for your team

Here are some of the scams IRS highlighted that could show up in A/P:

1. Phishing scams: The Service has seen a rise in phishing scams that use emails, letters, texts and links to trick people into disclosing personal and financial account information.

2. Fake charities: Criminals exploit situations like COVID-19, so take heed before your company donates to any "charities." Scammers may use names similar to real charities to appear legitimate. A test: Real charities will provide their Employer Identification

Number (EIN) if you request it.

3. Threatening phone calls: Be wary of calls that aim to instill "fear and urgency." Remember, IRS will never ask for immediate payment or financial information on the phone.

4. Social media scams: Checking social media on your break? Look out for criminals who pose as family or friends and send you "interesting links" that are part of a scam.

5. Payroll and HR scams: Criminals also want to steal W-2 and other tax info. Right now, the most common scams are gift card scams and direct deposit scams. IRS has seen a variety of fake invoice schemes, too.

6. Ransomware: This targets "human and technical weaknesses" to infect computers, networks or servers. It often begins with a download, so stay alert for suspicious requests.

Info: See more details on each of the top 12 scams at bit.ly/ddscams

4-step method to speed up data entry in Excel

■ Use this when multiplying in spreadsheets

Looking to boost your data entry skills and work faster in Excel?

If you're multiplying numbers, there's an easy way to do just that.

Increase your output

Most A/P pros know you can multiply numbers or cells by using an asterisk (e.g., =2*6 or =A1*B1).

You may even know how to do it with more than two values. For example, =PRODUCT(A1:A3,B1,C1) would multiply A1*A2*A3*B1*C1.

But let's say you have something more complex to calculate, like multiplying lots of values in a column by one value – a constant. You can use an "absolute reference" to the cell that

contains a constant. Here's how:

1. Once you set up your column, put the constant in another column.
2. Type = in a new cell and click the first cell you want to multiply (e.g., A1). You should have =A1*.
3. Next, type in the cell the constant is in with a \$ before the letter and the number (e.g., \$B\$2). The dollar sign makes it an absolute reference, so it won't change.
4. Once you have (=A1*\$B\$2), press enter to multiply.

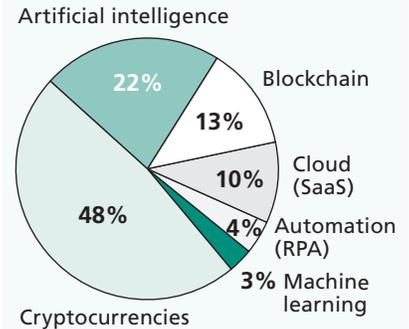
You can copy and paste (or drag at the lower right corner) this to other cells to continue multiplying.

Info: bit.ly/excel522

How do you stack up?

New, trendy tech

What would you say is the most 'overhyped' technology?



Source: Invoiced, invoiced.com

New tech advancements can do wonders for A/P. But you know it's important to look past the hype and buzz to see what kind of new tech would really benefit *your* specific processes and organization.

Each issue of KAP contains an exclusive survey to give payables professionals insight into what their peers nationwide are thinking and doing.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

■ Wacky purchases employees asked to be reimbursed for

Most of the time, A/P receives requests to pay for necessary items, like office supplies or services.

But A/P was left dumbfounded by these reimbursement requests:

- **A Lululemon sports bra:** One sales rep bought a sports bra and a yoga class for a client.
- **Eyelash extensions:** An employee tried charging her company \$69 for a little pampering.
- **Cigarettes:** A woman attempted to get her fix on the company's dime by putting it under "fuel."
- **A grill:** This \$699 appliance made its way onto an expense report.
- **Survival books:** One employee spent almost \$50 on these books.

Info: bit.ly/expenses519

Taking the guesswork out of state tax compliance

Here's KAP's roundup of key state tax changes. Developments in other states often indicate trends to watch. Your state may be next.

TECHNOLOGY

The more technology expands and changes, the more complicated sales and use tax becomes for A/P. Check out two states with news.

TENNESSEE – Paying for digital products in the Volunteer State? Here's insight on their taxability.

Typically, in Tennessee, sales tax applies to the sale, lease or licensing of specified digital products.

In a recent letter ruling, the Department of Revenue (DOR) said that included a vendor's:

- on-hold messaging services
- VideoCast programming services, and
- overhead music services.

The DOR noted the vendor's sales involved multiple components, some of which weren't taxable. But since the "true object" of the sale was taxable, the entire transaction was taxable.

Info: bit.ly/tn-522

SOUTH CAROLINA – This one's for A/P pros paying for online software and training.

One company recently asked the state if its online software subscription and the optional training (which could be bought with the subscription or at a later date) were taxable.

The state confirmed the software subscriptions were taxable.

As for the training, the state said if it was part of the subscription sale and included in the sales price, it was taxable. If training wasn't part of the subscription sale, it wasn't taxable.

Info: bit.ly/sc-522

USE TAX

You know better than most that sales tax and use tax are two totally

different beasts. One state has news to help you get use tax right.

MISSOURI – For A/P pros working here, a longstanding tax practice just got turned on its head.

The Missouri Supreme Court ruled the use tax definition of "sale" can't be applied to sales tax cases.

Here's some background on the situation: A company sold hotel room furnishing to its parent company, a hotel chain. It asked if these were nontaxable sales for resale.

The state decided the company's furniture sales *didn't* qualify as nontaxable sales tax resale since the hotels didn't transfer ownership of or title to the furnishings to hotel guests.

This decision strayed from the state's traditional practice of applying use tax definitions to sales tax cases.

Info: bit.ly/mo-522

TAX RELIEF

The coronavirus pandemic spurred many states to give companies a little leeway. Here's the latest news on tax relief.

MULTIPLE STATES – While some states' tax relief has expired, others are still offering it in some form (e.g., filing extensions, payment extensions, penalties waived, interest waived).

According to Avalara, the areas still providing tax relief include:

- Arizona
- District of Columbia
- California
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Mexico
- North Carolina, and
- Washington.

Be sure to share the news with your CFO and A/R, and visit the link below for frequently updated info on coronavirus tax relief.

Info: bit.ly/aval522

LOUISIANA – Good news if you work in the Pelican State!

Previously, the DOR only offered filing and payment extensions of:

- 60 days for income tax
- 30 days for sales tax, and
- 60 days for other taxes.

In light of COVID-19, the DOR is making some changes.

As of June 4, 2020, in the event of a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency, the state can grant filing and payment extensions of:

- up to six months for income and franchise taxes, and
- up to three months for sales tax and other taxes, fees or service charges.

Info: bit.ly/la-522

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