The Quill

Summer 2026

Highlights: In case you missed it

How do you manage budget deficit or breakeven in a non-profit or small business?

Are you running a small business, or a small non-profit? Are you struggling to manage small net profit margins, or even break-even points?

The market can be quite volatile now – whether you are dealing with trying to figure out how best to make your business stand out from others, or on how to bring in new customers or employees, it can be quite difficult to do more than make ends meet.

An article recently released by the Journal Accountancy provides some helpful tips on how you can help your organization manage to improve in various areas to help sustainability.

Some topics within this article include:

- Diversification of funding sources
- Having a proactive approach to shifts in your donor base, or funding sources
- Planning for all possible outcomes within your budget so it is realistic
- How to deal with recruitment needs and be competitive
- Use of technology to improve efficiencies

For the full article - https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/issues/2026/jul/how-to-tame-funding-volatility-in-not-for-profits/

Automatic Waiver of IRS Penalty Relief Expected to Go Into Effect for Eligible Taxpayers

According to an article from the Journal of Accountancy, "the IRS announced it will soon automatically abate three types of penalties — failure to file, failure to pay, and failure to deposit — for taxpayers with a history of timely compliance through a new program called automatic exemption from penalty (AEP)".

The article explains that the "AEP, expected to begin this summer, will apply to eligible original returns beginning with tax year 2025 and 2026 quarterly returns, as well as future tax periods, the IRS said. Taxpayers qualify if they have a history of timely filing the return and paying any tax due in the three prior years (or 12 consecutive quarters for quarterly returns)."

Be aware that during the transition it is possible that eligible taxpayers may still receive penalty notices for eligible returns and may need to contact the IRS to request a First Time Abate.

Taxpayers who do not qualify for the new program may still request penalty relief based on reasonable cause, consistent with prior methods.

For further details check out the full article here - https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/news/2026/jul/eligible-taxpayers-to-get-automatic-irs-penalty-relief/

Potential Changes to the 990 May Be Coming Your Way!

In April, 2026, the US Department of Treasury announced that they are planning on making revisions to the current format of the Form 990 (the informational tax form for non-profit organizations).

Per the Treasury, the goal is to "improve transparency, strengthen tax administration, and provide clearer reporting on certain activities of the tax-exempt organizations". The main changes expected pertain to the breakout of government contracts, government grants, and fiscal sponsorship arrangements.

No official changes have been made at this time.

Are You Down with AI Lingo?

The use of Artificial intelligence or AI is a growing trend, whether you like it or not. As always, with new technology, comes new lingo; are you ready for it? This article from the Journal of Accountancy provides helpful tips to get you "in the know" of what these words mean so you can sound like an AI pro too! Some of the lingo included in this are:

- Artificial intelligence
- Generative AI
- Retrieval-augmented generation
- Temperature
- Agentic AI

Check out the full article here - https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/issues/2026/may/defining-commonly-used-ai-terms/