

Castwell and Company Performing Arts Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

2026

February 4 2026 / 7pm / Castwell Clubhouse, 202 3rd Ave West, Biggar SK

ATTENDEES

Present:

Absent:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Motion to accept the Minutes of the last AGM as presented

- Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2025
- Motion to approve the minutes

Motion to accept the Agenda as presented

- Motion to approve the agenda

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND TREASURERS REPORT: Presented by Erin Hadden

- Motion to approve the financial report

CHAIR-PERSON'S REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Directors Report “I Chorus” and TheatreOne, submitted by Erin Hadden

Bylaws and Policy Committee Report, submitted by Allison Thomas

Castaways and Castaways Jr. Report, submitted by Jacob DeBussac

Improv Committee Report, submitted by Stephen Hadden

Castwell Kids Report (with Janelle Carr), submitted by Erin Hadden and Michaela Hoppe

Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee Report, submitted by Jessica Wylie

Cabaret/Karaoke Committee Report, submitted by Michaela Hoppe

Grant Committee Report, submitted by Erin Hadden

Communications Committee Report, submitted by Stephen Hadden

COMING EVENTS

- Improv Nights, every second Sunday at the Castwell Clubhouse
- Theatrefest Regina runs from April 5-11
- “School Of Rock” at the Majestic Theatre May 20-31
- Town and Country Fair Days Parade Participation

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO BYLAWS

November 11, 2025

Current bylaw reads:

1.06 Auditors

Castwell & Company shall appoint H&R Block as their official Auditor and accountant.

Proposed change would read:

1.06 Auditors

Castwell & Company shall appoint their auditor annually at their Annual General Meeting.

A vote by the membership to ratify any amendments and/or additions to the bylaws.

NOMINATION REPORT

INTRODUCING YOUR 2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEE NOMINEES (3 year term)

- Dani Vavra
 - Dani has been involved in numerous Castwell projects and is always game to help. Her experience in teaching various grades gives her organization skills and the ability to see projects through from start to finish. She also has connections to many of the young or new families in town via their children so is a known face, which is always helpful in spreading the word about Castwell. I think she will bring a positive energy and new ideas to the board while being a pillar of the values Castwell stands for.
- Kristy Smith
 - Kristy has demonstrated her commitment to Castwell & Co. through eager and consistent participation in our events, programs, and working bees. Her willingness to volunteer wherever she is needed has not gone unnoticed, and her unique perspective will be of value during board discussions.

ELECT NEW TRUSTEES

- Trustees are elected by majority vote by the membership. Votes will be tallied by a neutral third party.
- This year, all new Board Members were elected by acclamation.

ELECT 2026 AUDITOR

Auditor to be proposed by current acting Treasurer, Erin Hadden

- Motion to approve auditor

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

**CASTWELL & COMPANY PERFORMING ARTS INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
2025**

04 FEBRUARY 2025 / 7:00 PM / 202 3rd Ave West, Biggar SK

ATTENDEES

- Erin, Stephen, Michaela, Dale, Jen, Beth, Tiff, Jacob, Amilia, Katelyn, Anette, Miguel, Brian, Allison.

Recognition of a quorum

- Quorum met.

Call the meeting to order

- Michaela calls the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Welcome to our special guest, Miguel Fenrich, who brings greetings from Theatre Saskatchewan.

- Miguel shared with us the mission of Theatre Saskatchewan and its support for small community theatre groups, emphasizing how organizations like Castwell are vital to their work.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM

N/A

Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting

- No minutes to review.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT and TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Treasurer, Erin Hadden

Motion to accept the Financial Statement as presented

- We ended the year in the black with \$7,600 in our account, after paying for the clubhouse rental.
- This year, we began holding an annual liquor license, which provided additional income. Hurrah!
- Erin is available for questions regarding the financial report.

Motion to accept the financial report

- Tiffany moves to accept the financial report. Bethany seconds. Unanimous approval.

COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS REPORTS 2024

- **Bylaw and Policy Committee Report**
- **“Castaways” Committee Report**
- **Dracula Directors Report**

- **Grants Committee Report**
 - Applied for a \$300 grant through Theatre Saskatchewan (TSI) and received it for *Dracula*.
 - TSI also offers a production grant up to \$2,000 every three years for items that can be reused within the organization. We applied but were unsuccessful because we hadn't completed our first year of membership with them. However, we have been encouraged to reapply in the future.
 - Kristi Smith applied for and received an RBC Community Grant for \$1,500.
- **"I Chorus" Directors Report**
 - Will be part of Theatre One in Melfort this March 2025. Rehearsals are ongoing at the Castwell Clubhouse, and costumes and props are well underway. Everyone is learning and building together. The performance will be brought back to Biggar for two shows on Mother's Day weekend. The movement and masking workshop was very successful.
- **Castwell Cabaret Report**
 - Karaoke Cabaret and Broadway Cabaret were held with great support and feedback. Both events were financially successful.
- **Social Media Committee Report**
 - Stephen has built our wonderful website, and Tiffany is our talented social media coordinator. The website has been a great way to showcase Castwell's offerings and improve communication within the group. Social media following has grown steadily over the year.
 - See Attached Reports.

COMING EVENTS

- **"I Chorus" Theatre One**
- **"I Chorus" Mother's Day Weekend, Biggar**
- **Town and Country Fair Days**

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO BYLAWS

Original Bylaw

4.02 Persons Entitled to be Present

All current members have the right to attend a members' meeting and are entitled to one vote each.

Bylaw Amendment that was voted on and adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 14, 2025

All current members have the right to attend a members' meeting and are entitled to one vote each. The

Board of Trustees may allow guests to attend a members' meeting by invitation only. Guests invited in this manner have no voting privileges.

A vote by the membership to ratify any amendments and/or additions to the bylaws

- All in favor. Bylaw Amended.

NOMINATION REPORT

Introducing your 2025 Board of Trustees Nominees:

- DeBussac, Jacob
- Hadden, Erin
- Hadden, Stephen
- Hoppe, Dale
- Hoppe, Michaela
- Thomas, Allison
- Wyle, Jessica

ELECT NEW TRUSTEES

- Our 2025 Board of Trustees has been elected by acclamation.

ELECT THE AUDITOR

Auditor to be proposed by Treasurer, Erin Hadden.

Motion to accept the auditor

- Erin moves to have Andrea Craig as our auditor for Castwell and Co. for the 2025 year. Allison seconds. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Jacob motions to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconds. All in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

January 20, 2025

Castwell and Company Performing Arts Incorporated
Box 854, 322 Main Street
Biggar, SK S0K 0M0

To whom it may concern:

I have conducted a review of the above-named corporation. They have provided me with both electronic and physical documents of their financial information. All information provided to me was very well organized and easy to review.

I performed a spot check of approximately 20% to 30% of both income and expenses and everything I checked was accurate and complete. They receive income in the form of cash, cheques, and electronic deposits. Some expenses are paid for by board members and then reimbursed. All cheque requisition forms from board members and all cheques require two signatures. They do not have company bank cards or credit cards.

The only items to note are:

1. The re-issue Cheque #31 made to a board member, which resulted in them being reimbursed for \$88.94 twice.
2. An incorrect liquor license receipt was submitted by a board member for reimbursement, but was paid back when the mistake was realized.

I made the following adjustments to the financial statements they provided to me with:

1. I added the extra reimbursement of \$88.94 to accounts receivable.
2. I removed the incorrect liquor license amount of \$105 from both income and expenses.
3. I removed the purchase of the table and chairs for \$1,156.44 from expenses and capitalized them.
4. I added in the donations in kind of \$1,372.96 to income and capitalized them.
5. I removed the licensing fees of \$4,256.68 for a performance to occur in 2026 from expenses and added them to prepaid expenses.
6. I removed the 2024 accounts payable of \$123.65 included in expenses and the 2024 accounts payable of \$148.65 that cleared in 2025.

Overall there was nothing that came to my attention to cast doubt upon the completeness and accurateness of their financial affairs as presented.

Attached are the adjusted financial statements, which I feel are a fair and accurate representation of the financial position of this corporation.


Andrea Craig, BComm

Castwell and Company Performing Arts Inc.

Income Statement

January 1 - December 31

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Advertising sponsors	\$2,500.00	\$1,100.00
Concession income	\$1,407.93	\$2,357.43
Donations	\$234.80	\$2,767.93
Donations in kind	\$1,372.96	\$0.00
Staff event registration	\$230.00	\$340.00
Festival income	\$945.00	\$0.00
Fundraising income	\$300.00	\$2,248.00
Grants	\$5,050.00	\$1,725.00
Merchandise	\$19.14	\$363.78
Ticket purchases	\$4,147.30	\$6,654.25
Total Revenue	\$16,207.13	\$17,556.39
Expenses		
Bank fees	\$75.98	\$82.78
Advertising / promotion	\$490.80	\$175.88
Concession expenses	\$952.38	\$1,435.94
Costume expenses	\$0.00	\$660.93
Equipment purchased	\$1,054.05	\$534.83
Equipment rental	\$0.00	\$601.85
Facility rental	\$2,846.00	\$2,262.25
Festival expenses	\$2,808.73	\$0.00
Fundraising expenses	\$180.60	\$0.00
Licensing & materials	\$574.61	\$1,067.61
Membership fees (TSI, RWSD)	\$160.00	\$140.00
Professional fees		
Accounting fees	\$600.00	\$0.00
Incorporation fees (ISC)	\$20.00	\$0.00
Program expenses	\$3,142.90	\$0.00
Staging expenses	\$1,095.56	\$952.33
Tickets / programs	\$81.13	\$174.89
Training & development	\$630.00	\$150.00
Volunteer recognition	\$44.39	\$575.81
Total Expenses	\$14,757.13	\$8,815.10
Net Income	\$1,450.00	\$8,741.29

Castwell and Company Performing Arts Inc.

Balance Sheet

As at December 31

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets		
Biggar Credit Union Chequing Account	\$3,307.27	\$8,889.94
Accounts receivable	\$88.94	\$0.00
Prepaid licencing fees	<u>\$4,256.68</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total current assets	<u>\$7,652.89</u>	<u>\$8,889.94</u>
Capital assets		
Class 8		
Sets	\$1,372.96	\$0.00
Table & chairs	<u>\$1,165.44</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total capital assets	<u>\$2,538.40</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total assets	<u>\$10,191.29</u>	<u>\$8,889.94</u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$0.00	\$148.65
Total liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$148.65</u>
Equity		
Retained earnings	<u>\$10,191.29</u>	<u>\$8,741.29</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$10,191.29</u>	<u>\$8,889.94</u>

Statement of Retained Earnings

Opening balance, January 1, 2025	\$8,741.29	\$0.00
Net income	\$1,450.00	\$8,741.29
Closing balance, December 31, 2025	<u>\$10,191.29</u>	<u>\$8,741.29</u>

Castwell Treasurer's Report for Feb. 4, 2026 AGM

2025 Income Review

Total General Income:	\$2,774.45
Total Cabaret/ Karaoke Income:	\$1,225.11
Total Castaways Income:	\$1,230.00
iChorus / TheatreOne Income:	\$4,424.51
Total Dracula Income:	\$75.00
Total Castwell Kids Income:	\$5,040.30
Total School of Rock Income:	\$0.00
Total Burnt Thicket Income:	\$64.80
Total Donations in Kind Income:	\$1,372.96

Total Income: \$16,207.13

2025 Expenses Review

General Operating Expenses:	\$4,807.94	+/
Total Cabaret/ Karaoke Expenses:	\$532.39	-\$2,033.49
Total Castaways Expenses:	\$198.14	\$692.72
iChorus / TheatreOne Expenses:	\$4,853.44	\$1,031.86
Total Dracula Expenses:	\$0.00	-\$428.93
Total Castwell Kids Expenses	\$4,365.22	\$75.00
Total School of Rock Expenses:	\$0.00	\$675.08
Total Burnt Thicket Expenses:	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$64.80
		\$1,372.96

Total Expenses: \$14,757.13

Castwell 2025 Balance: \$1,450.00

Bank Balance at December 31, 2025:	\$3,307.27
Cheques still to Clear*:	\$0.00
Payments Still to Collect**:	\$163.94
Actual Adjusted Balance:	\$3,471.21

NOTES: 2025 was a year focused on building and development for Castwell & Co. We initiated a lease on the Castwell Clubhouse and began taking steps to make it a comfortable home for our members to enjoy. We entered a Theatre Festival for the first time. We launched Castaways Jr. and Castwell Kids. As the Board Treasurer I am pleased and proud to report to our members that of all of the events, activities, and programs Castwell facilitated in 2025, each one finished up in the black. Sometimes just marginally so, but still. At this point in our young organizational life, I am encouraged by these results. We are being good stewards of what we have been given, and we are building strong foundations to support future growth.

Respectfully Submitted, Erin Hadden, Treasurer

Chairperson's Report

This past year has been an extraordinary period of growth, creativity, and community connection for Castwell. Our programs, performances, and partnerships have continued to strengthen our mission of providing meaningful artistic experiences for people of all ages in our region. I am proud to share the many achievements and milestones from this remarkable year.

We began with the success of "**I Chorus**," a one-act play directed by Erin Hadden and presented at the Majestic Theatre on May 9 and 11. This production went on to be showcased at **TheatreOne in Melfort, Saskatchewan on April 27**, where it received significant recognition:

- *Honorable Mention for Performance in a Supporting Role* for Our **Greek Chorus**, and
- *Best Performance in a Supporting Role* awarded to **Tiffani McBee**.
These honours highlight the dedication and talent of our young performers and creative team.

In May, we proudly launched **Castaways JR, Dungeons & Dragons Club** —an exciting addition to our programming that has fostered imagination, collaboration, and storytelling for youth in our community.

Our summer community involvement continued to grow. Castwell participated in the **Town and Country Fair Days Parade** on June 14, followed by our lively **Castwell Karaoke Night** at the Majestic Theatre that same evening. Both events strengthened our visibility and reinforced the joy and connection that come from shared creative experiences.

On August 26, Castwell volunteers took part in a **Co-op TV commercial**, providing yet another unique opportunity for performance development and public engagement.

The fall was equally full and vibrant. On November 13, we returned to the Majestic Theatre for **Castwell Kids' production of "The Nutcracker Jr."**, directed by Janelle Carr. This program combined performance and backstage learning, and once again showcased the incredible enthusiasm of our young artists.

We were honoured to host Burnt Thicket Theatre's "**My Little Plastic Jesus**" in the Castwell Clubhouse on November 5, broadening our artistic partnerships and bringing new theatrical perspectives to our community.

Our commitment to skill development continued with a **Movement Workshop led by Kenn McLeod** on October 25 in the Castwell Clubhouse. The next day, October 26, Castwell volunteers supported the United Church's **115 Years of Fellowship** celebration—another example of our strong community ties.

In November, Castwell hosted a 24-hour **Extra Life Fundraiser** for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, bringing together all ages for a gaming marathon in support of a worthy cause.

We started up the **Castwell Improv Group**, led by Stephen Hadden, on November 22. This ongoing program has already begun to nurture quick thinking, confidence, and creativity in participants.

In addition, auditions for "**School of Rock**" were held in November, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead.

Outside of the theatre walls, Castwell added artistry to the community through seasonal participation in the **Sandra Schmirler Walking Path Displays**. Both our summer and winter installations were well received, and our Christmas display was selected as *one of the best on the path*, a testament to the creativity of our volunteers and youth.

Closing Remarks

This year has proven once again that Castwell is not only a place for theatre and creativity—it is a place for connection, mentorship, growth, and community pride. I would like to thank our volunteers, parents, partners, instructors, performers, and supporters for contributing to the momentum and spirit that make everything we do possible.

Together, we are building something meaningful. I look forward to another year of imagination, courage, and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,
Michaela Hoppe

Final Castwell & Co. Project Report: TheatreOne Festival 2025, I, CHORUS



Project Goals:

All Castwell & Co. Project Events have three key goals:

1. Project Participant Volunteers have a positive experience during their time with us.
2. Event Patrons have a positive experience during their time with us.
3. The Project does not take a significant loss financially.

Personalized goals for this **TheatreOne** Project include:

1. To provide our Participants with opportunities to try new things, build new skills, and take creative risks together in a safe environment.
2. To provide our broader community with opportunities for inspiration and delight by chronicling our team's journey towards TheatreOne on all Castwell social media and website platforms.

Highlights from Our Journey (January - May, 2025):

- **Rehearsals and Production Prep (January – April)**
 - Regina-based Performance Artist Nena Hawkes came in January to deliver a Mask and Movement workshop for our I, CHORUS team. Reports from participants were super positive and some of Nena's teachings have been directly incorporated by our Greek Chorus.
 - Local Music Tzar Amy Zhao delivered a Vocal Projection and Breath workshop for our I, CHORUS team in February, to help us prepare for the big stage. We have been including Amy's very helpful breathing and diction exercises into our regular rehearsal warmups.
 - Greek Chorus Masks and Robes were beautifully realized by our phenomenally talented artists, Michaela and Annette. We were able to incorporate these elements into regular rehearsals.

- Production Team Reps Allison, Erin, and Steve travelled to Melfort on April 9 for an Open House event at the Kerry Vickar Centre, hosted by Theatre Sask and Melfort Amateur Dramatics. Being in the performance space, they were able to identify some significant issues with our current staging and creatively problem solve together.
- Kudos to each of our iChorus performers and production teammates for their willingness to take huge creative risk together. We are super proud of them and thrilled with the result.
- **TheatreOne (April):**
 - Festival Weekend was crazy intense but also lots of fun
 - We learned A LOT. It was a steep learning curve in places but we took care of each other.
 - AirBnB was a perfect plan to house our team. 100% would do this again.
 - Attending the Adjudication Sessions was so helpful – we learned just as much from attending the sessions for the other groups as we did from our own session with Ken.
 - We received lots of positive feedback and encouragement from folks we met from other participating groups. They were particularly touched by observing our young folk.
 - Folks at home seemed to enjoy following our adventures on Socials
 - Bottom line: knowing what we know now, we would definitely do this again – with some very minor adjustments.
- **Hometown Shows (May):**
 - Note: our team was exhausted after Festival. It was good that we had the opportunity for some rest time before starting in on prep for the Hometown Shows. In hindsight, booking Biggar shows two weeks after festival worked out awesome.
 - Ticket Presale was slower than hoped – factors for this include the general admission seating, and the show taking place during a busy time of year for our community.
 - We sold almost the same number of tickets at the door as we sold in the presale
 - The audience were very engaged and there was wonderful energy in the theatre
 - Although a very different type of performance event, there was definitely value in investing in the post-festival Hometown Shows. They blessed our team and stretched our audience in a very good way. This would be worth doing again in the future.
- **Participant & Patron Feedback**
 - We sent Anonymous Feedback forms out by email to all iChorus participants. The responses were both encouraging and constructive. Feedback received through these forms will be taken into consideration as we build future shows.
 - Our Social Media goals for I, CHORUS were met in a wonderful way. We received lots of positive engagement on our posts and encountered lots of good-natured curiosity and encouragement out in the community.

Final Thoughts

Participating in TheatreOne, particularly with the show we chose to bring, was a risk on many fronts. I am grateful to every person who participated to make this project a uniquely beautiful, strange, and quirky success. We met each of our goals (even netting a small profit!) – surpassing expectations and setting new standards for future projects. I sincerely hope that Castwell will choose to participate in more performing arts festivals going forward.

Respectfully Submitted by: Erin Hadden, Show Director

The Castaways Dungeons & Dragons Club

Annual Report to the Castwell & Co. Board / AGM

Overview

The Castaways Dungeons & Dragons Club has had a strong and productive year, continuing to grow as a creative, community-focused program under the Castwell & Co. umbrella. The club remains aligned with Castwell & Co.'s mandate to foster storytelling, collaboration, and performance-based creativity.

Club Activity & Table Updates

Over the past year, both D&D tables have run well and with consistent participation:

- **Table One:**
Tom is currently running an ongoing campaign with five players, which has remained stable and well attended.
- **Table Two:**
Rob successfully completed his campaign in November, also with five players. Beginning in February, I (Jacob) will be taking over Dungeon Master duties for this table. While there has been a slightly delayed start in finalizing my campaign, preparation is now underway and progressing.

Membership Growth & New Players

We have seen positive results from social media outreach, which has led to the addition of five new players this year. To ensure a positive experience and good group dynamics, one-shot sessions will begin in February for these newcomers. This approach will allow us to assess fit and interest before integrating players into a longer-term campaign at a future date.

Youth Program Expansion

A major highlight this year has been Rob's initiative to branch off and create The Castaways Jr., a youth-focused D&D club. This program has been a smashing success, demonstrating strong interest and engagement from younger participants and further extending Castwell & Co.'s reach into the community.

Looking Ahead

With a combined total of 17 players and Dungeon Masters across programs, The Castaways is well-positioned for another successful year. We anticipate continued stability in our adult tables, thoughtful onboarding of new players, and sustained growth of The Castaways Jr.

Closing

The Castaways continues to be a vibrant, creative extension of Castwell & Co., blending storytelling, improvisation, and community engagement. Thank you to the board for its continued support through funding and venue access—we look forward to another strong year ahead.

Castwell Improv Report AGM 2026

We finally started our improv group in 2025. We only had one proper session with four awesome participants (thank you Erin, Tom, and Dale). We missed Jarrett by a few minutes at a couple of low attendance cancellations (Sorry Jarrett!). We had a participant age-limit of 18+ in 2025 - as improv can get a little sketchy (like the pun?). But there are a few youth who are keen to start coming out, and we figure we can keep the event content appropriate for 15+.

I have some great resources from Canada Improv Games, the Upright Citizens Brigade, and other sources to explore elements of improv in both the short-form (game style - think "Who's Line is it Anyway?"), and long-form improv. We started up again on January 24. All are welcome, no experience required. It's a time to learn, a time to have fun, and a way to explore new ways to perform in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Hadden

Castwell & Company Performing Arts Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

2026 Committee Reports

Castwell Kids Program Report

Program: Castwell Kids with Janelle Carr Location: Biggar, SK Dates: Sept. 8–Nov. 13, 2025

Final Report Submitted by Erin Hadden to Creative Kids

This year's Castwell Kids program ran exactly as envisioned—offering both performance-based learning and backstage/production development opportunities for young people in our community, and culminating in a joyful public performance at our local theatre.

A total of **23 children (Grades K–4)** participated as performers in Canadian playwright **Deborah Solberg's *The Nutcracker Junior***, supported by **8 teens (Grades 7–12)** who served as performance mentors and Backstage Badgers.

Program Highlights

Homework Heroes

Under the guidance of Ms. Janelle, our educator and production facilitator, children were encouraged to practice at home and submit videos of themselves rehearsing lines and songs. The “**Homework Heroes**” incentive program became a beloved feature—children practiced diligently throughout the week to earn recognition (and a small prize) from Ms. Janelle. This contributed to noticeable growth in confidence, preparation, and enthusiasm.

Teen Mentors & Backstage Badgers

Our teen leaders were each assigned a small pod of younger performers to support throughout the rehearsal process, fostering responsibility, leadership, and meaningful interpersonal connections. Several Badgers also had the exciting opportunity to choreograph and teach the pivotal fight scene between the Rats and the Toys—an entirely new and empowering experience for them.

Theatre Move-In

A major highlight for all involved was “moving in” to the theatre. We are incredibly fortunate to have access to a fully operational performance space that allows children to experience the magic of a real production environment and provides our teen Badgers with hands-on technical training.

Instructor Impact

The success of this program is due in large part to the phenomenal leadership of Ms. Janelle. Her organization, confidence, enthusiasm, and unwavering kindness created an environment where young performers felt supported and safe to take risks, while teen mentors flourished under her inclusive approach to leadership development.

Observed Growth and Development

For Children

Skill Development

- Improved speech clarity
- Stronger vocal projection
- Increased musicality
- More grounded stage presence

Character Development

- Enhanced focus and self-regulation
- Greater capacity to wait patiently and take turns
- Growth in empathy and encouragement of peers
- Development of personal responsibility for their learning

For Teens

- Increased confidence in their own voices and abilities
- Pride and ownership in mentoring their “pods”
- Foundational technical theatre skills: props, sets, costumes, lighting, scrim, and curtain operation
- Deeper understanding of teamwork, leadership, and creative collaboration

Gratitude

This program was made possible thanks to the generous support of **Creative Kids**, whose funding allowed us to hire Ms. Janelle and keep participation costs accessible for families. With affordability as a core value for Castwell Kids, this partnership made a tangible and meaningful difference.

We truly could not have done this without you. From the bottom of our hearts—thank you.

Sponsorship Report

2025–2026 Season

Castwell & Company Performing Arts continues to rely on a combination of charitable grants, community partnerships, and fundraising activities to sustain our programming and operations. Sponsorships from local businesses, organizations, and individuals remain a vital component of our financial stability and allow us to offer inclusive, accessible performing arts opportunities in Biggar.

During the 2025–2026 season, Castwell & Company offered a tiered sponsorship program with four giving levels: Patron, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level provided recognition opportunities across printed materials, playbills, social media, and verbal acknowledgements at events. Sponsor outreach was primarily conducted through direct email communication with local businesses and community partners.

To date, we are pleased to report that we secured \$2,400 in monetary sponsorships. These contributions directly support production costs, programming, and administrative needs for the season. We also received in-kind sponsorships including marketing space which enhance our promotional efforts and public visibility.

Sponsors contributing during the 2025–2026 season include:

Patron

- Bear Hills Media
- Biggar Credit Union
- C&E Hoppe & Family

Gold

- Town of Biggar

Silver

- Silver Eagle Excavating Ltd.

Bronze

- Biggar Insurance
- Cucina Ni Flora
- Nicole's Dayhome
- Park Place Mobile Home Park

The Board of Trustees extends sincere thanks to all sponsors and partners who contributed financially or in kind. Their generosity demonstrates continued community belief in Castwell & Company's mission and ensures that we can offer high-quality, accessible performing arts experiences for participants and audiences of all ages.

Castwell & Company Performing Arts Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

2026 Committee Reports

Castwell & Co. – Karaoke Night Summary

Town & Country Fair Days | June 2025

Submitted by Michaela Hoppe

Overview

This year's Karaoke Night expanded on last year's Karaoke Cabaret by focusing fully on karaoke. We enhanced the technical setup with on-stage sound equipment, a computer, and a lyrics monitor so performers could face the audience confidently. A cozy stage set and fun airband guitars created an inviting atmosphere, and relocating the bar improved accessibility and flow.

What Worked Well

- **Technical Setup:** Excellent sound, smooth hosting from onstage, and effective lyric-monitor placement.
- **Stage Set:** Helped performers feel comfortable and provided great photo opportunities.
- **Airband Instruments:** Fun for non-singers; just need reinforcement for durability.
- **Song Ticket Sales:** Increased revenue without limiting participation.
- **Bar Service:** Canned-only drinks made service smooth; \$6 pricing encouraged tipping.
- **Artwork:** Tiffani's sandwich board added charm and visibility.
- **Audience Growth:** Many returning guests brought friends; newcomers felt supported enough to perform.
- One attendee said this event is their *favorite of the year*.

Key Learnings & Recommendations

- Stock fewer **beers** and more **Gin/Tequila Smashes**; our drink selection was strong overall.
- Clarify in marketing that **minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian**.
- Count how many songs fit in the schedule and sell only that many tickets.
- Build in **breaks** for the karaoke facilitator.
- Pre-arrange the **Safe Ride Home** volunteer and promote throughout the night.
- Set up tech the **night before**; day-of arrival can begin around 4–5 PM for a 7 PM opening.

- Consider **doors at 7 PM**, karaoke starting at **7:30 PM**.
- Limit songs to **6 minutes max**.
- Prioritize **first-time performers** over those singing multiple times.
- Adjust ticket pricing to **\$2 per song or 3 for \$5**.
- Explore whether a smaller venue may create a more intimate vibe.

Attendance

- **Castwellians:** 32
- **Public:** 44 **Total:** 76 attendees

Bar Inventory Notes

- **Popular:** Gin Smashes, Tequila Smashes, Pabst Iced Tea & Lemonade
- **Less Popular:** Beer (GW Light), Prairie White, 306 Seltzers Several items carried over for future events.

Castwell & Company Grants Committee Report for the Year 2025

In 2025, Castwell & Co. applied for four community grants and received funding from each.

1. Theatre Saskatchewan: TheatreOne Festival Participant Grant

A grant of \$750.00 is awarded to each group who performs at TheatreOne Festival to offset production and/or festival expenses.

The safety net of this guaranteed grant funding made the difference between Castwell submitting to perform at TheatreOne in 2025 and making the difficult choice not to participate in the festival at all.

2. Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program

An annual grant program facilitated locally by the Biggar Recreation Board. Amounts awarded vary based on need and projected impact.

Castwell applied for this grant in June 2025 on behalf of our rapidly growing Castaways D&D Club. We asked for, and were granted, **\$1,000.00** for the purchase of sturdy folding tables and chairs for the players and facilitators to use.

3. Creative Kids Saskatchewan - Program Grant

An annual grant program designed to provide support for accessible community arts programming for underserved children and youth in Saskatchewan. Amounts awarded vary based on need and projected impact.

We applied for this grant in August 2025 on behalf of our newly launched Castwell Kids program. We asked for, and were granted, **\$3,000.00** which allowed us to offer this awesome and important program free of charge to participating families.

4. Theatre Saskatchewan – Travel Consultant Grant

This Travel Consultant Grant was designed to encourage voting member clubs to bring in facilitators to help their club with their production or a specific workshop. Depending on the distance that the facilitator must travel to the workshop, Theatre Saskatchewan Inc. will decide on the grant amount up to \$300.00.

We applied for this grant in the fall to help us bring in popular Theatre Educator Kenn McLeod to facilitate a Movement Workshop for our community. We asked for, and were granted, **\$300.00** for this project.

Total Grant funds awarded to Castwell & Company Performing Arts in 2025: **\$5,050.00**

NOTE: Castwell & Company Performing Arts Inc. has applied to the CRA to become a Federally Registered Charity. This is an involved process that will take many months to be resolved, but we feel confident that our application will be successful in the end. This new designation will allow us to access significantly more grant funding going forward.

Respectfully Submitted: Erin Hadden
Board Treasurer

Castwell Communications Report AGM 2026

It has been another exciting year for Castwell & Co. We have successfully staged or are staging new shows, hosted productions from groups like Burnt Thicket Theatre, collaborated with Janelle Carr for Castwell Kids, and run regular programs like Castaways, Castaways Jr., Improv and AV Club. It takes some dedicated folks to share the details and dates of these events and programs. Thanks to Erin, Michaela and Tiffani for their care and upkeep of the various social media communication tasks - posts, forms, photos etc. Tiffani has stepped down from the communications committee, but I want to thank her for getting things up and running for Castwell, and for all the time and energy she has put into the role.

We continue to maintain a web presence at castwell.ca. Our events are posted regularly on Facebook and Instagram. Between Erin and Michaela, we have a regular positive presence on Facebook and Instagram - they have been liking posts associated with our Biggar community, providing posts for bottle drives, fundraising efforts, and supporting other organizations in our community and across the province.

Erin has provided two newsletters that have gone out to the Castwell membership. These will continue to come out semi-regularly throughout the year. Thank you, Erin, for putting these together and getting the word out there.

As far as next steps, there are no new specific plans, we may check out some new newsletter platforms to help with the creation and delivery of our newsletters. But otherwise, we hope that folks can find our information through castwell.ca, and through Instagram and Facebook.

If you have an interest in keeping Castwell's membership updated on our events or you have a knack for advertising - join our committee - it's a good time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Hadden