



# The Punch Line

## What a Party!



### Board of Directors

Don Sheliga, President  
 Craig Blue, Vice-President  
 Mike Kraus, Sec'y-Treasurer  
 John Dauby  
 Gary Jerzak  
 Kyle Marscola  
 Steve Nadolny  
 Denise Ott  
 Mike Petersen  
 Howard Scott  
 Lucy Scott

Our 2025 annual event, **Spring Gala**, is in the books! The birthday party/fundraiser/awareness evening became a “funraiser” event as we celebrated our ninth birthday at Morris Park County Club on April 26.

The evening marked a significant milestone for our organization and focused on the vital importance of raising awareness of Parkinson's Disease.

This 2025 event was our seventh such event and set records:

- Most attendees ever (221)
- Most silent auction items ever (117)
- Most money ever raised (\$78,000+)

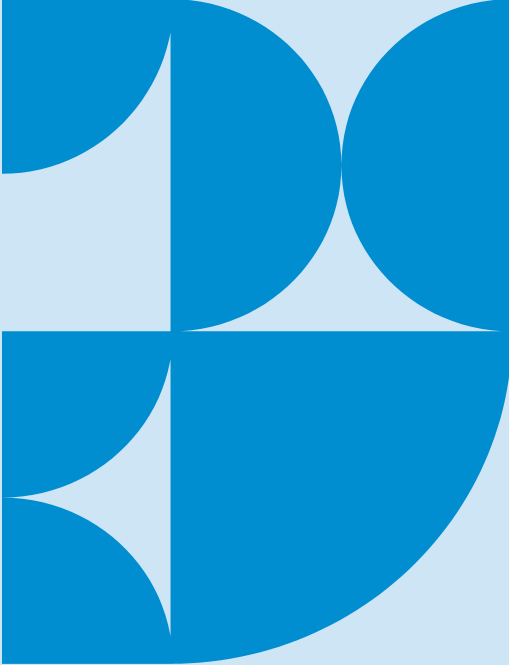
Guests enjoyed a delicious banquet and participated in exciting live and silent auctions, with all proceeds going directly to support our mission of empowering individuals with Parkinson's Disease through boxing-inspired fitness programs.

Our guest speaker for the evening’s program was **Dr. Randall Bjork**, a consulting neurologist with the South Bend Neurology Group. Our emcee for the evening was again local television celebrity, **Gary Sieber**, WNDU’s “weather guy”.

*continued on next page*

### ***The Punch Line***

Published quarterly by:  
 Michiana Partners for Parkinson’s  
 Volume 2 Issue 2  
 May, 2025



Continued from page 1

Guests bid on 117 silent auction items like gift cards and certificates, entertainment, collectibles, gift baskets, jewelry and travel experiences. Bidding on these items was both in-person at the Gala and online. Three exciting live auction items all sold: a tour of Notre Dame’s football stadium and locker room, a beautiful aquamarine jewelry collection, and a July concert in New York City’s Yankee Stadium featuring Billy Joel and Rod Stewart. Bidding on these three Live Auction items was by in-person guests only.

Interest in two fixed-price items was brisk. Twenty-five mystery mini-bags of jewelry sold out quickly in the “Jewelry Pull”. And for the whiskey connoisseurs, we offered our own private label whiskey; 20 bottles sold.

“Heads and Tails” was so fun that we played it twice and raised more than \$1,000. And the “Gift Card Pull” sold out quickly, raising nearly \$1000 in less than five minutes.

And since this was a birthday celebration, we enjoyed delicious 9<sup>th</sup> birthday cake from Martin’s Bakery.

Next year, our birthday falls on Saturday, May 2 – 10 years to the day that we opened our first gym in South Bend. Stay tuned for announcements about the event’s date and venue. Wherever and whenever, it will be difficult to exceed the excitement generated on April 26 at Morris Park Country Club.

The Gala would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the volunteers on the planning committee. Planning began in earnest in January, Thanks to these folks – Christine Birner, Craig Blue, John Dauby, Peg Grcich, Mike and Joyce Kraus, Kyle Marscola, Carol and Phil Miller, Heather Moriconi, Steve Nadolny, Mike and Margie Petersen, Debbie Pieri, Don and Linda Sheliga, Brandi and Kristi Sheliga – the 2025 Spring Gala was a success.

Thanks as well to the staff at Morris Park Country Club.

And to the generous sponsors and donors of the auction items sold, a **BIG “THANK YOU”**.

## Rock Steady Boxing of Michiana

50770-A State Road 933  
South Bend  
and  
2510 Benham Avenue  
Elkhart  
(574) 286-6731



RockSteadyBoxingMichiana.com

## We Remember



**Don Stahly**  
8/13/1941 - 3/18/2025



**Jim & Pam Dunfee**

# Member Spotlight



## Todd Miller

Todd Miller was one of three fighters in the room for our first class in May 2016. That earns this 55-year-old fighter the distinction of being the Longest Active Member.

During his high school and college years, Todd competed in football and beach volleyball sports. After graduating from Ball State University, he became a licensed architect and is now a partner in a local architectural firm. He and wife Debbie live in Osceola and have three adult children. He is “hooked” on fishing as a sport and is a big Notre Dame football fan.

Twenty years ago, Todd noticed a strange twitch in his toe. But it wasn't until 2010 that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease at Cleveland Clinic. Then, in early 2016, after seeing a segment about Rock Steady Boxing on CBS, he and his dad visited a class at RSB headquarters in Indianapolis. You could say that since then, he has been “hooked” on boxing as a sport - an exercise regimen - and a metaphor.

Todd maintains that he would be worse off today if not for Rock Steady Boxing. The exercise program has helped him focus and feel better about himself.

Stepping away from participation in RSB before and after shoulder replacement surgery last October convinced him of its value. He noticed a difference physically. His tremors increased. He noticed changes in his on/off times.

“Now I push myself as hard as I can. When others walk laps, I run. When others do push-ups on the wall, I do them on the floor. I'm not showing off, I just want to be stronger than Parkinson's. And I feel noticeably different - better”. Todd is convinced that his disease progression has leveled off or even slowed down over the last 5 years. “I know I am better off physically than I was 5 years ago”.

Miller enjoys the fellowship with people who are in the ring with him and credits the encouragement he gets from others for his success.

His advice to new members: “Give it your all. Give it as much as you can - then give it some more. It has helped me immensely. My gait is better. My tremors are controlled. My cognitive decline? That's just a sign of aging”.

**Todd Miller: “Hooked” on Rock Steady Boxing**



Todd Miller

## Welcome New Members

South Bend

**Ralph Brendler**

**Sara Herrity**

**Brenda Milliken**

**Ron Werntz**

Elkhart

**Bob Bancroft**

**Peggy Ganger**

**Gary Yoder**