



## General Conference - SPECIAL EVENTS



**Greetings Family, Friends & Professionals,**

What would the 34<sup>th</sup> PWSA (USA) National Convention be like without some **fun, excitement and entertainment?**

Please take a second to look at some of our extra special social opportunities where fun, fellowship and unwinding come together under one roof.

### Meet our Special Event Planners



**Deborah Hall-Peaton**  
**Special Events Chair**

PWSA-Florida Board Treasurer &  
Newsletter Editor

My son with Prader-Willi syndrome is now 35. We have been associated with the State and National organizations since 1993 when he was diagnosed at age 8. My son lives in his own home with 24/7 staffing. I am currently Treasurer for the Prader-Willi Florida Association, and produce the newsletters, printed literature, and forms. I previously served as President for 5 years of the state association and have been on their Board. I have helped with the National Prader Willi Association conventions as chair of the Welcome Reception, YAP Gala, and General Gala for several years. I have a degree in Art, and was an art director for 15 years.

We are truly looking forward to seeing everyone and having a great time.



**Catt Pudney**  
**Special Events Support**

PWSA (USA) New Parent Mentor  
PWSA-Florida Board Member

I am a wife and mother of 2 boys: Pax, who is 3 years old and has Prader-Willi syndrome, and his older brother Greyson, who is 7. They are inseparable, with Greyson always being "The Protector." We love to swim, go to Disney, and try to expose our kids to as many activities as we can.

Over the last 3 years, I have been lucky enough to meet the strongest and most amazing people through the PWSA and am so excited to see them at the conference (which I have been thrilled to help with). I am also a PWSA (USA) New Parent Mentor and on the PWSA - Florida Board.

## Scheduled Events

### Welcome Reception - Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> (Caribbean III & IV)

**6:00 – 9:00pm**

The excitement is in the air, friends wave, smile and embrace. It's been too long but we are finally back together again. The Welcome Reception kicks off the General Conference with fun for all. It's time to familiarize yourself with the setting, sign in, pick up your registration packets and explore the festivities of our Caribbean-themed extravaganza.

Featuring - Captain Jack, a Mermaid, a Gator Character, a Magician, Face Painter, and Balloonist

Activities - Design your own pirate hat, Activity books, Games, An amazing train table, Obstacle course, and who doesn't love prizes

Music – Kick up your heels with our DJ provided tunes

### General Gala - Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> (Caribbean III & IV)

**5:30 – 9:00pm**

For most families who support a loved one with PWS, they find it challenging to participate in social functions, as they generally need to be so vigilant in monitoring any unrestricted food access their child may encounter. While their 7-year-old and older child participates in their own highly-structured YAP GALA event, they are able to socialize, make new connections, have a date night with their significant other or just enjoy some well-deserved down time. All of this will take place in a Caribbean-themed backdrop, while listening to an amazing Tropical Harmony Steel Band for your personal enjoyment.

### Silent Auction - Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> (Caribbean III & IV)

**5:30 – 7:30pm**

Like a little fun competition amongst friends? The silent auction provides many with this opportunity, all while raising funds to help support our PWS community mission. These items are sent from all over, donated by amazing businesses, chapters, affiliates and individuals. Hope you are lucky to go home with something new and exciting!

## **YAP Gala – Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> (Sierra Ballroom)**

**5:30 – 9:00pm**

This is a separate and special dinner event planned for our YAP participants and other attending guests. The hall will be transformed into a Caribbean oasis, where individuals will receive prizes, and lots of time to put their dancing shoes on with John the DJ from Allengang. This Youth & Adult Program Gala is open to all individuals diagnosed with PWS seven years of age and older. Trained support staff ensure food security, while the participants are able to enjoy social time with their friends, lots of smiles, eat a healthy but special dinner, and then move on to dancing the night away to their favorite tunes. Families, younger children, and professionals love joining in the festivities later on in the evening, as they show off their own unique moves with their kiddos and friends.

## **Closing Ceremonies – Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> (Caribbean III & IV)**

**4:15 – 5:00pm**

For those who have seen the smiles of pure joy on the faces of the support staff, volunteers, infants, children, youth and adults with PWS as they come through the conference doors to join their families, it is a breathtaking and powerful experience. Together we view and share a personal video of photos of all that the 2017 National Convention had going on throughout the week - Programs, Conferences, special events. It is amazing to see how proud the participants are to stand next to their friends, new and old, as they perform their new choreographed dance production for the entire assembly.