

Women Building Power in Kentucky

Report-Back from Retreat #2 held
Friday, August 22nd & Saturday, August 23rd

We had a rich group of women gather together on both Friday & Saturday in Frankfort to re-connect since the 1st Retreat in April and to build new relationships with women who were participating for the first time with Women Building Power.

Women participating included: Maria Almario, Isela Arras, Tara Buckler, Jenna Dirr, Ashley Jackson, Ashanti Scott, Attica Scott, Kelli Jo Smith, Caitlin Swain-McSurely

Friday evening was spent in sistership getting to know one another, sharing personal hi's & lo's, and begin conversations about next steps for Women Building Power.

On Saturday, we created a list of issues for discussion during our time together. Those issues were:

- affirmation
- bonding
- creating an agenda for an upcoming state-wide policy conversation
- decreasing isolation
- healing
- motivation
- next steps for Women Building Power
- personal check-ins
- politics (local, state & national)
- reaching out
- resource exchange
- scheduled time helping each other and ourselves
- setting a date for dinner in September to say "goodbye" to Caitlin (tears are ever-flowing)
- shared creativity
- strategizing around a "Think Tank" conversation
- sustainability
- working toward being "whelmed" rather than "overwhelmed"

A lot was accomplished with us beginning Saturday morning with a "Salute to the Sun." We spent much-needed time creating goals, objectives and an agenda for a policy conference. There were mixed feelings about next steps for Women Building Power. Some folks talked about the need to fold our efforts into the Kentucky Social Forum (serving on the various Work Teams and presenting workshops). Others talked about the need to continue gathering in some form or fashion.

Much time was spent talking about politics and how that affects our lives. We shared creativity through pictures and quotes. And we scheduled a dinner date for anyone who wants to come and say "goodbye" to Caitlin as she moves to North Carolina for a while.

Dinner is Sunday, September 21st at 5pm at Queen of Sheba in Louisville.

And of course the day ended with a Gratitude Circle as we continue to build power in our state!