



## 2017 Postgraduate Writers' Conference TRAVEL PLANNING

### Calendar Notes

The Conference opens the evening of Monday, August 7, which is also the main travel and arrival day for participants.

Dorm room check-in starts at 2 p.m. on 8/7. Our PWC Welcome Center will be open from 11 a.m. on, and include a secure luggage area. VCFA campus staff will be available to assist any participants getting in earlier.

Scheduled events begin with dinner (5-6:45 p.m.) and our kick-off evening program (7:30 p.m.) This includes the official welcome/orientation, a faculty reading, a brief meeting by workshop groups and then our first-night reception.

Conference events continue through Saturday night, 8/12. Participants should plan to be here for the full Conference. The meal plan concludes with breakfast on Sunday (8/13), which is our departure and return travel day.

The complete, day-to-day schedule for all Conference activities will be available by July 31 for advance viewing by our participants.

### Air Travel & Airport Shuttle

**Burlington International Airport** (BTV) is served by most major airlines, and is about 40 minutes from VCFA's Montpelier campus.

**Shuttle service** is available both ways between the airport and campus through the Vermont Tour & Charter company. Scheduled shuttle times run for arrivals from morning through late afternoon/early evening on 8/7, and for departures beginning *very early* in the a.m. on 8/13 (to coordinate with all scheduled flights). VT&C will also book airport transfers for flights outside the main schedule. The link to our dedicated VT&C webpage, for complete details and advance reservations, will be available about a month ahead of the Conference.

The conference does not cover the cost of these transfers; they are booked by participants with the shuttle company. Price will vary depending on the number of riders for a given trip, though generally the lowest available fare (\$30 each way) will pertain during our peak shuttle periods. Taxi service from the airport to campus is also available, though typically those fares will be higher. Burlington Airport also has outlets for major car rental companies.

## Driving to VCFA

Montpelier is readily accessible by car from Northeast U.S. locations, at Exit 8 on I-89.

Navigating our small town is easy. Parking on the VCFA campus is convenient and free. Participants can use on-street parking as well as designated VCFA lots. Drivers will be provided with a short-term campus parking pass for the length of your Conference stay.

## Carpooling/Ride Shares

If you're planning to drive to the Conference and would be interested in having other participants ride with you and share expenses, please let us know. We will work to connect you with other writers traveling from nearby localities.

Likewise, if you're looking for a possible ride with a fellow participant, tell us and we'll see if we can help find a match for you.

## Bus & Train Travel

**Greyhound** operates the former Vermont Transit bus routes to Montpelier from New York City, Boston and Hartford, CT.

Montpelier is served by **Amtrak's Vermonter**, with service from Washington, D.C., New York and intermediate stations. Important note: The northbound Vermonter reaches Montpelier at **8:02 p.m.** This does not coordinate well with our kick-off evening, which will already be in progress at that arrival time. If you're planning to travel by train, please consider coming on Sunday, 8/6, as you won't want to miss our opening program.

All participants traveling to Montpelier by bus or train should inform the Conference staff about your plans. We can often coordinate pick-up from and drop-off to the Greyhound bus stop downtown and/or "Montpelier Junction." (The bus stop at Montpelier City Hall is a fairly short walk to VCFA, but it's uphill, and can be a haul with your luggage. The Amtrak stop is a couple of miles out of town.)