

## From the desk of Scott Yundt...



It was 22 years ago that I had my first introduction to Tri-Valley CAREs. I attended the August action at the gates of Livermore Lab that year to add my 22 year-old voice to those of veteran anti-nuclear trailblazers and hundreds more. I met Marylia Kelley while helping to hang signs on the fence of the Lab. Little did I know then that my life would arc toward working for peace, justice and the environment with Tri-Valley CAREs.

As Tri-Valley CAREs' Staff Attorney for the last 14 years, I have had the distinct privilege of leading the Sick Worker Program, the "Right-to-Know" Program (using the the Freedom of Information Act and related laws), the Environmental Law Program (using the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws), and other activities.

With this strong foundation in the programmatic work, in addition to being well acquainted with our board, membership, and donors, I am thrilled to now take the leap into a leadership role as Tri-Valley CAREs' Executive Director. And, after 40 years, Marylia Kelley has made the well-deserved transition to a new role as the group's Senior Advisor.

**What a moment for this exciting transition!** At its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Tri-Valley CAREs' mission endures. We work for peace, justice and the environment, pursuing interrelated goals that move our community and the world to abolish nuclear weapons. I have a vision to guide us into the next stage of that journey, and I want to briefly share a few thoughts here.

- **Expanding watchdog and "right-to-know" programs.** We will increase our Information Act requests and litigate when the government tries to stonewall us. We will publish our findings and analyses, using our recently redesigned website, electronic newsletters, and social media to connect our members with the info we glean. Our deep knowledge of the weapons complex provides a unique perspective that our members, elected officials, media and others have come to depend on. Expect even more to come!
- **Doubling down on advocacy to stop new bombs and bomb plants.** We provide the only locally based monitoring of the Lab's main site and Site 300, where more than \$2 billion is spent each year - with 85% of it is used for nuclear weapons activities. We will expand our scrutiny of the Lab budget, the federal nuclear weapons budget, and the underlying policy of global arms racing that this funding enables. Look for us to engage lawmakers and other leaders with our analyses and to contribute to congressional bills and other federal initiatives to curb nuclear weapons. And you are invited as we lift up our members' stories in visits locally and in Washington, DC!
- **Demanding environmental justice and cleanup of nuclear pollution.** Our bilingual community organizing and related activities to achieve cleanup of hazardous materials emanating from the Lab's main site and Site 300 are essential. Our fence line communities suffer from contamination of our air, land, and water. We will redouble our efforts to press for meaningful community involvement in Superfund and other Lab cleanup programs. Expect us to expand our workshops, meetings with regulators, and public involvement opportunities to safeguard our environment in the coming months!

And, now, I would love to hear your vision for what Tri-Valley CAREs' future should hold. Please reach out to me at [scott@trivalleycares.org](mailto:scott@trivalleycares.org) with your ideas, messages, and thoughts.