

## *Foreword*



*by*  
*Sue Dyer*

Many people have worked and sacrificed over the past twenty years to open the doors that allowed women to enter the workplace. I have been such a pioneer.

I found being a woman working in a man's world challenging and exciting, but it did take time to get to know the rules of the game. For the most part I have always been treated fairly and with respect. I've always taught my daughter that she can do whatever she wants. I believed that we have "come a long way baby".

One evening Christine Harvey called me to discuss a speech she was preparing for the Leaders of the American Girl Scout of Europe. She explained that the speech had been inspired by a ten-year-old girl asking her teacher if a girl can run for President. I was shocked!

"You mean that in the new millennium, girls don't know that they can run for President? How could this be?"

Well, I suppose that if I were ten, I would look at the President and see that he was a man, and then look at all the past Presidents and see that they were all men too. And of course no one had ever told me it could be any different.

"Incredible," I thought. "Wow! What messages are we still giving our girls?" I was dumbfounded with the revelation that we have not come as far as I had believed.

The realization kept pounding away at me. After a couple of days I called Christine and said to her, "You have to turn your speech into a book!"

We must help girls, and women too, understand that they can be anything they want to be including President. They need to know that women can do as good a job as men as political leaders, perhaps even better. And we have to start when they are still girls – teaching them and training them for these possibilities.

Well, Christine went to Europe and gave her speech – and it was one of those turning points you always hear about. The audience was buzzing. They stood and cheered. They wanted to start preparing their girls immediately and they left with tools in hand to do it.

And that is how this book came to be. It is a book that enlightens us all; not only about our misconception that girls think their roles are unlimited, but about the steps we must take as adults to role model leadership in our own lives.

It is also a cry to arms, to raise the values in our countries, one person at a time.

It is my sincere hope that after reading *Can a Girl Run for President?*, you will buy a copy for every teacher, parent, grandparent, Girl Scout leader and every other leader of girls you know. Start a *Can a Girl Run for President?* discussion group in your community. And most importantly, start treating girls as potential leaders now. Today. Don't wait, the direction of our societies is at stake. Start with yourself. Our future truly is in your hands.

Sue Dyer, MBA  
President, OrgMetrics  
URL: [www.orgmetric.com](http://www.orgmetric.com)

*First woman in the US to head a collective bargaining unit in the construction industry.*