

MRO Seeks Nominations for Annual HERO Award

August 2, 2021

SAINT PAUL, MN. Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) has a long history of relying on the expertise and dedication of the many members and stakeholder volunteers that support MRO's mission "to identify, prioritize and assure effective and efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system by promoting **Highly Effective Reliability Organizations® (HEROs)**." In 2020, MRO implemented a [Volunteer Recognition Program](#) to acknowledge these volunteers for their hard work and contributions to the success of MRO.

Part of the Volunteer Recognition Program includes an annual HERO Award. This prestigious award provides MRO the opportunity to recognize one volunteer annually for their exemplary initiative and commitment to advancing the concept and principles of HEROs throughout the MRO region and in support of MRO's vision and mission. Past winners are highlighted on the HERO page of MRO's website.

The qualifications for HERO Award nominees are the following high reliability organization¹ behaviors:

- 1. Preoccupation with Failure and Risk.**
 - Focus on failures
 - Look twice at repeat problems
 - Imagine what could fail, even if it hasn't yet
 - Ask tough questions
 - Seek out and encourage bad news

- 2. Reluctance to Simplify Interpretation.**
 - Embrace complexity of the bulk power system
 - Investigate the facts
 - Reject overly simple diagnoses
 - Be a skeptic; value other skeptics
 - Challenge the status quo

- 3. Sensitivity to Operations.**
 - Seek to fully understand how things work, not just how they are supposed to work
 - Identify (and share) opportunities for improvement
 - Don't assign blame; empower others to speak up
 - Promote teamwork and awareness
 - Identify silos and encourage cross communication

¹ See: <https://www.mro.net/MRODocuments/Five%20Principles%20of%20High%20Reliability%20Organizations.pdf>

4. Commitment to Resilience.

- Promote awareness of risks
- Identify and share resilient behaviors for our industry
- Determine and train others on appropriate mitigation efforts
- Assess mitigation efforts for effectiveness
- Promote continuous learning and training

5. Deference to Expertise.

- Listen to (and leverage) the boots on the ground (experts)
- Make decisions informed by technical truth
- Develop communication tools for sharing of information

Please consider nominating someone that demonstrates any of the above qualifications, or has made other contributions or significant achievements in promoting HERO concepts across the MRO region. Nominations can be submitted online [here](#), and will be accepted through **August 20, 2021**.

The board's Organizational Group Oversight Committee will review candidates and make a final selection at its meeting on September 29, 2021. The award winner will be honored during MRO's Annual Member and Board Meeting on December 2, 2021.

Questions regarding MRO's HERO Award should be submitted to [Jessie Mitchell](#), Director of Communications.

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Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the reliability and security of the bulk power system in the central region of North America, including parts of both the United States and Canada. MRO is one of six regional entities in North America operating under authority from regulators in the United States through a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and in Canada under similar arrangements. The primary focus of MRO is developing and ensuring compliance with reliability standards and assessing the grid's ability to meet the demands for electricity.