

Since its beginning, Excelsior EMC has proven itself to be a company devoted to serving its members. We're committed to providing you, our members, with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. The information contained in this Annual Report Newsletter provides a recap of the past year and highlights many of the key activities taking place at Excelsior EMC.

We are thankful that our 60 employees worked 130,600 hours without a lost time accident in 2023. This makes our third consecutive year without a lost time accident. We saw another year of strong consumer growth in 2023, adding 522 accounts during the year. This surpassed the growth we saw in 2022 and is the highest number of meters we've added since 1997. During the last three years, your cooperative continued to experience impressive growth by adding over 1,400 meters, serving 25,288 accounts at year-end. Over the past five years, we've grown by 9.3%.

Wholesale power costs moderated in 2023, which was a welcome reprieve from the rollercoaster price swings we experienced in 2022. The total cost of purchased power decreased in 2023 even though we purchased more power. The supply of materials used in construction and maintenance improved during the year. We encountered fewer delays due to material shortages than we did in 2022. However, inflation keeps increasing the cost of everything we purchase and thus increasing the cost of new power lines that we add to our system.

During 2023 we added almost 26 miles of power lines and invested over \$11.4 million in our system to better serve our members. We completed major improvement to our Jimps Substation located next to the Wal-Mart Distribution center. We also completed a major reconductoring project along Highway 301 south of Statesboro to the Interstate 16 Substation. The voltage and capacity increases in these two projects will allow for growth and greater reliability in the areas south of Statesboro.

We added a cryptocurrency processing consumer in 2023. Working in conjunction with our neighboring EMC in Toombs County, we began serving this facility on the outskirts of Vidalia in May. Serving this large, interruptible load helps us to spread our fixed costs over higher kWh sales, thereby helping all of our members.

Looking ahead, our four-year work plan calls for the conversion of power lines in the Midville Community on the Northeast Emanuel Substation. Our contractors are working there now and should complete their work in the area in the coming months. This work will allow us to balance the load and replace old copper conductors that are heavily loaded and deteriorating. It will also provide additional capacity, and improve reliability in the area.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, our mission is to provide the best in safe, reliable, and cost-effective service to you, our member-owners. We are honored to be part of a cooperative that's been serving members for 86 years. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Annual Meeting.