

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 6, 2021

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## **Lauren Atwell Elected NUCA Chairman of the Board** ***Petticoat-Schmitt Executive Takes Top Job at Utility Construction Association***

(Fairfax, Va.) – The National Utility Contractors Association’s (NUCA) Board of Directors formally inducted Lauren Atwell as their new Chairman on February 6 at their Annual Meeting held in Naples, Florida.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman Atwell focused on the essential nature of America’s utility contractors to national economic growth and the impact of the 2020 pandemic on our members:

“At last year’s Convention, none of us had heard of COVID, but less than a month later NUCA’s work in Washington convinced the federal government that our industry was essential to the nation’s health and economy.”

Chairman Atwell is the chief operating officer at Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors, Inc., located in Jacksonville, Florida. He has been part of the company’s executive team for this large Southeast regional construction company since 2014. Petticoat-Schmitt specializes in clearing and grading for underground utility, roadway, and water and wastewater treatment plant construction.

Prior to working for Petticoat-Schmitt, he was senior vice president at Layne Construction in The Woodlands, Texas, starting as vice president of the firm in 2011. He holds a degree in civil and environmental engineering from Clarkson University.

Atwell has been on the executive council of NUCA since 2018, first serving as Secretary. Since 2013, Atwell also holds membership in the state chapter (NUCA of Florida) of the national organization, and continues to serve as a trusted member of the Construction Management Advisory Board for the University of North Florida.

His tenure will focus on continuing the membership growth achieved by his predecessor, Chairman Fred Chesney. “At the 2020 Convention, one of our chairman’s top goals was to increase NUCA’s membership. We all know someone in the industry who would benefit from being a part of our association, and his ‘NUCA plus One’ program delivered results. Our

membership numbers grew in 2020 by over six percent, an amazing accomplishment,” said Atwell.

Also elected to the leadership team at the February 6 NUCA Annual Meeting was Ryan Kinning of Pender, Nebraska, as Chairman-Elect. Tom Butler of Tampa, Florida, was elected as Vice-Chairman, Tony Privitera of Kansas City, Missouri, was elected as Treasurer, and Matt Mingus of Nashville, Tennessee, as Secretary.

Atwell’s term as Chairman of the Board will end one year from now at the next NUCA Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 2022. After his term is completed, Atwell will then become the association’s Immediate Past Chairman, and continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

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#### **About The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)**

Founded in 1964, the National Utility Contractors Association represents nearly 1,700 U.S. utility and excavation contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who provide the materials and workforce to build and maintain our nation’s intricate network of water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, and electric infrastructure. NUCA is found online at [www.nuca.com](http://www.nuca.com), and can be followed on Twitter at **@NUCA\_National**. The association’s Twitter hashtags are #WeDigAmerica and #NUCAdigs.