

Straight ahead with Construction Plus

By Sandra Clark

Sandy Loy is not afraid of controversy. Much like the Ayn Rand character Howard Roark, Loy is a thinker who stays true to his ideals ... even when it might be easier financially to “go along to get along.”

As owner/president of Construction Plus Inc., Loy was an early advocate of the design/build concept in the Knoxville market. Now he says he rarely does bids. His business is based on repeat customers and referrals.

Recently, Loy sat for a day-long exam to become Tennessee's first contractor to earn the Certified Construction Manager designation. There are fewer than 1,500 CCMs in the world, and Loy

said it was important for him to earn the title that is called “the gold standard” in the industry.

“The CCM Certification sets one apart and indicates a level of performance based on standards that exemplify the best practices of our industry,” said CMAA president Bruce D’Agostino. “Reviewers look for the highest level of competence in individuals who know, understand and apply the association’s Standards of Practice.”

Construction Plus has built 10 schools including two award-winning high schools in Claiborne County. The Director of Schools, Dr. Eddie Shoffner, said Construction Plus completed both schools on time and under budget,

working as the construction manager agent. “They made the process painless and worked as our advocate from the beginning until we opened the doors and beyond.”



Sandy Loy

Shoffner said the construction management agency method served Claiborne County well and “saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars, with no hassles.” He was especially pleased with Loy’s commitment to keep the systems running when new technology led to maintenance difficulties.

“We spent a lot of time and effort to straighten out some problems (that occurred after construction was complete). We got the problems fixed and in February or March, the school board up there passed a resolution commending us for our great effort,” Loy said with a smile.

He was not about to have an unhappy customer.

Loy grew up in Knox County, graduating from Central High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture and a master’s in engineering, both from UT. Along the way he got married and had a family. He worked for TVA for several years before launching Construction Plus in 1988. Over the years, the senior

staff there has built projects valued at more than \$3 billion.

These include the Knoxville Cancer Center in Dowell Springs, the Lexus of Knoxville dealership and the Faragut Icearium. Construction Plus built or renovated several area churches and worked for Goody’s and Belz Development. Loy won the Knoxville Chamber’s Pinnacle Award for Business Excellence.

The company is getting ready to start a project for Cherokee Health Systems in Englewood, Tenn. And Sandy Loy is at war with the Knoxville/Knox County Public Building Authority (PBA).

Working with state legislators, Loy is trying to change the law that allows the PBA to contract for projects outside of Knox County. He also wants more controls on the PBA’s power to contract without competitive bidding for public projects such as the Hardin Valley Academy.

“(What they are doing) may be legal, but it’s not right,” he says. His experience, credibility and innate stubbornness make Sandy Loy a fierce foe. And he’s not afraid of controversy.

