Dear Adobe at Yahoo Participants:

The Earthbuilding Guild (TEG) is an active group advocating the use of earthen building materials. It is well along in the process of applying for non-profit status at the federal level and has already gotten non-profit status from the State of New Mexico. TEG continues to make strides in developing a network of people who want earthen construction to thrive. The Board of Directors meets monthly despite the distances between us -- Northern & Southern New Mexico. We have several topics on our agenda including educational aspects of Earthen Construction, development of Building Codes for Earthen Construction, and development of Certification Programs for the various fields and trades in Earthen Construction.

One of the more positive events this month is the release of the first online issue of Adobe Builder magazine. Membership in TEG brings you access to Adobe Builder at no cost. (Number of issues is dependent on your level of membership).

We invite you to visit our website: [www.theearthbuildersguild.com](http://www.theearthbuildersguild.com)

Following is a summary of who we are and what we have done.

**TEG points to the original medieval meaning of the term “guild” as an association of persons in the same craft or trade who act to uphold standards and protect the members.** TEG is also a501c(6) corporation registered in New Mexico as a Business persons’ League representing those who earn their livings either wholly or partly through Earthbuilding (adobe, compressed earth block, rammed earth, etc.) as contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, installers, architects, draftsfolk, etc. Its purpose is to represent and promote the Earthen Construction Industry of New Mexico to the interested public, clarify misconceptions about Adobe, Compressed Earth Block and Rammed Earth and act as a volunteer, qualified interface with officials when building codes that may affect its members are written, adopted or modified. The National code change and adoption cycle is every three years. Thus, one of TEG’s duties is to anticipate and stay alert to new codes that are coming through the regulations pipeline that can affect its members. The TEG philosophy is to be proactive about code matters, as opposed to doing nothing and allowing the Earthen Building Codes to become obsolete or written by unqualified parties. TEG may also foster research into the structural or thermal suitability of native materials as well as hybrid and alternative wall systems that relate to Earthen and Passive Solar Construction.

**What has TEG done?**

Worked with code officials to write the NM Rammed Earth code which took ten years. It is the first “on the books” rammed earth code in USA.

Worked with code officials to write the NM Compressed Earth Block code, which took three years. It is the first “on the books” CEB code in the USA.

Has continued efforts to keep and expand energy codes that recognize and allow passive solar design and mass wall construction.

Has made Earthbuilding a visible trade to bureaucrats and politicians who would otherwise ignore or eliminate us when considering legislation or code changes.

Has stimulated communication and unity among Earthbuilders.

Has begun to list elements of knowledge and skills that will be required of earthen construction practitioners who would wish to be certified by TEG.

Has initiated a comprehensive curriculum to be approved by TEG that would be used by any educational group wishing to teach the knowledge and skills leading to certification by TEG. Some or all syllabi and course outlines will be included in the curriculum.

Has developed a draft proposal for a Code of Ethics for Earthbuilding Contractors.

Please consider joining TEG - Application is available on our website. We welcome your participation!

**Board of Directors**

Sean Kaltenbach, Chair, Ernest Aragon, Co-chair, Laura Tweed, Secretary, Helen Levine, Treasurer

**Members at Large**

Pat Bellestri-Martinez, Joe Mirabal, Michael Sims, Joe Tibbets, Jane Whitmire, Gary Wee