SETTING SAIL WITH THE AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

Imagine ABA as a boat...

Framework

The ABA boat is built by legal documents that define its purpose of existence: letters of incorporation, governance policies, and bylaws.

Membership

ABA has more than 2,500 member bookstores. The members own the boat. They elect the Board of Directors from their membership.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors sets the destination (the ENDS) for the boat (ABA) and hires a captain — the CEO. The Board monitors the CEO to make sure the boat reaches the destination (the ENDS), but does not tell the captain and crew what to do.

CEO

The CEO is the captain. She creates the strategy (the MEANS) to reach the destination (the ENDS). The CEO decides the sail route, determines how fast to travel, and hires and manages the crew.

ABA Staff

The ABA staff is the hired crew on the boat. Under the leadership of the captain, they do the work (the MEANS) to get the boat to the determined destination (the ENDS).

Policy Governance

This method of governance is called the Carver Model. It lights the way for the captain (CEO) to navigate to their destination.

ABA is proud to support the success of independent bookstores through education, services, resources, technology, and advocacy to support their businesses and the great work they do in their communities.

links

- ABA Governance Policy Manual
- Board of Directors Election Process
- ABA Nomination and Election Guidelines
- Carver's Policy Governance Model

definitions

trade association
An organization or group that is founded and funded by businesses in a particular industry.

501(c)(6) organization
Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code provides for the exemption of business leagues, chambers of commerce, real estate boards, boards of trade and professional football leagues, which are not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

ABA
AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION