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.

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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.

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**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.