

Stone Harbor real-estate agent finds niche hosting New Jersey Network pledge drives

By DEBRA RECH
For The Press, (609) 463-6719

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Area real-estate agent Ron Soldano has become something of a regular on the New Jersey Network, helping to host the public television station's pledge drives.

"I didn't realize when I started that I would be asked back so many times, but I love doing it," Soldano said. "It's great community service for something I feel is very worthy."

Soldano, who has homes in Ocean View and North Wildwood, got involved with NJN in 1996 when he organized a group of coworkers from Coldwell Bankers Otton Real Estate in Stone Harbor to answer phones during

the pledge drive.

"I found it interesting how the hosts worked the show, and I wanted to be part of it," he said.

In December 1999, Soldano co-hosted his first pledge drive along with then membership director Joe Kruchinsky. He has co-hosted three times so far.

NJN runs a show for about 20 minutes, then the pledge drive for about ten minutes. Although he is given a script and can read it from a teleprompter, some of his comments are ad libbed.

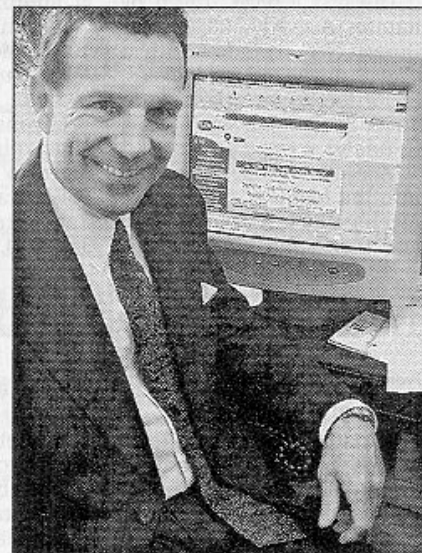
"It's a challenge, but I get to explore

my creativity with this," Soldano said. He said he feels fortunate that his employer allows him to do this.

"The owner of the firm supports me totally," he said. "I think the best thing anyone can offer the community is time. If I have the ability to do live TV for NJN, I feel I have an obligation to do it."

"I always tell NJN that if they need me, I'm there," he said. "I think life is not what you can get from it, but what you bring to it. I would rather spend a Saturday evening helping NJN than doing most other things."

Donations can be sent to NJN Public Television, PO Box 777, Trenton 08625. Or see the Web site: www.njn.net



Staff photo by Dale Gerhard

Ron Soldano has co-hosted three pledge drives since December 1999.