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Machinists Lodge 63 member Sam Beekman (right) at the starting line at Timberline Lodge with his friend Brian Epps ... and below at the finish line in Seaside.

'Fighting Machinist' completes Hood to Coast route ... in a wheelchair

ALS doesn't stop Sam Beekman's quest for adventure.

By Michael Gutwig
Editor & Manager

Longtime Machinists Lodge 63 member Sam Beekman put together a four-man team of ALS patients to help raise awareness about the disease. They did it by riding their wheelchairs 175 miles from Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood to the promenade in Seaside on the Oregon coast.

Initially, the idea was to enter a team in the popular Hood to Coast Relay, an annual event that Beekman and the Machinists Union — The Fighting Machinists — participated in for more than a decade starting in the mid-'90s. Race officials, however, worried about their safety, so the plan was nixed.



Beekman and his friend Brian Epp, who also has ALS, came up with Plan B — wait until a few weeks after the Hood to Coast Relay, and do it on their own. So, at 9 a.m. on Sept. 25, Beekman and Epps set out from Timberline Lodge for the first of nine legs of the “non-sanc-

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Obama signs TPP

The 12-nation pact would favor the rights of investors over workers

By Don McIntosh
Associate Editor

The secret negotiations are complete. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — kind of a quadruple NAFTA — was finalized Oct. 5 and will be heading to Congress for a ratification vote. TPP is a partnership between corporate lawyers and government leaders from 12 Pacific Rim nations — to write a massive set of rules that would lock in corporate profits and protect investors from democracy.

But that's not how President Barack Obama's trade czar put it. U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman is a former

Citigroup executive and Harvard Law classmate of Obama's. During his Senate confirmation it came out that he owned substantial funds in a Cayman Islands tax haven. Froman's the guy who led the TPP talks to completion, and he wants you to think TPP is all about benefiting American workers.

For details of the sales pitch, or just to witness the Obama Administration's world-class chutzpah, take a look at Froman's brand-new propaganda web site — ustr.gov/tpp. The site features a red-white-and-blue logo that reads “TPP: Made In America,” and the

“We already know enough to oppose the TPP. It's going to off-shore jobs and drive down wages.”

— Citizens Trade Campaign director Arthur Stamoulis

tagline, “leveling the playing field for American workers and American businesses.” The TPP “includes the strongest worker protections of any trade agreement in history,” the web

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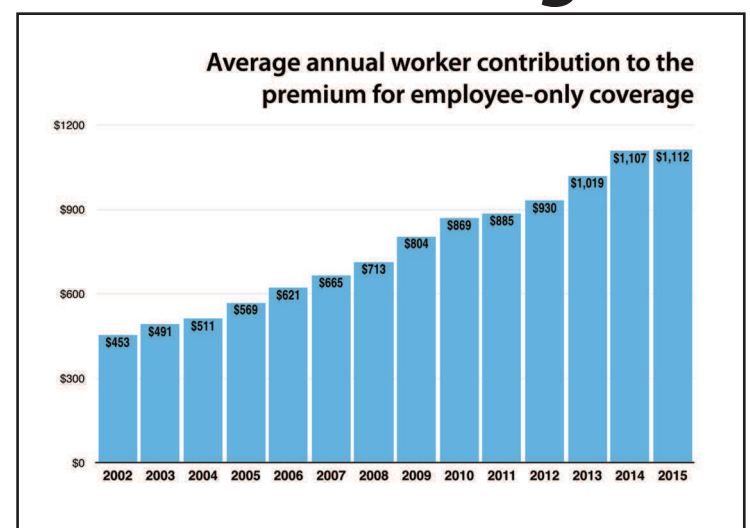
HEALTH CARE

Premiums continue to outpace inflation and workers' wages

Deductibles triple in 10 years, and family premiums now average \$17,545 a year

The Kaiser Family Foundation's 17th annual nationwide employer survey confirms what most workers are already feeling: Health care costs are gobbling up more and more of their wages.

Employers are the principal source of health insurance in the United States, providing health benefits for about 147 million Americans who are under 65. But most workers share the cost of the medical services they use. That cost sharing can take a variety of forms, including a share of the premium deductibles, co-payments (fixed dollar amounts per visit), and co-insurance (a percentage of the charge for services).



Who's covered?

In 2015, 57 percent of employers offer health benefits to at least some of their workers, statistically unchanged from the 55 percent in 2014. That includes 98 percent of large firms (200 or more workers) but just 47 percent of the smallest firms (three to nine workers).

The premium

Single and family premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance rose an average of 4 percent between 2014 and 2015. Since 2005, premiums have grown an average of 5 percent each year, down from the 11 percent annually they

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